WALSALL
CHRONICLE

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Nativity star

Ben has a dream role in new Christmas movie

See page 26

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Your chance to join the biggest festive pop party

What's On – page 36

Jump for joy

Veteran Norman's triple triumph in the saddle

Sport – pages 59 & 60

University plans to extend campus

WOLVERHAMPTON University is planning to expand its Walsall campus and turn it into a centre of excellence for sport.

Bosses hope to invest in new and improved sports facilities and develop a business park to help create new jobs.

However, a councillor for streets surrounding the Gorway Road campus has hit out at the move, which means university bosses are no longer backing the creation of a new access road to alleviate parking problems.

Walsall Rugby Club is moving from its current site next to the university.

Plans had been mooted to create new homes, additional parking space and a new access road to the campus there.

University vice-chancellor Geoff Layer said: "For some time, we have been in discussion with the council, Walsall Rugby Club and property developers about potential uses of the rugby club land to try to help the club realise its ambition and to provide an access route to the university.

Uncertainty

"Given the uncertainty over future funding of higher eduction and Government policy we have reflected on our priorities. We need to focus on enhancing the student experience and promoting economic growth.

"Consequently, we will be seeking to invest in new and improved sports facilities as well as developing a business park to focus on creating jobs."

He said the university wanted to follow on from the success of the 2012 London Olympics and develop sports at its site, from recreation level through to elite sports.

Councillor Mohammed Arif, for St Matthews ward, said residents on the Broadway Park Estate had long complained about cars clogging up roads and driveways, as well as heavy traffic during term times.

"This is disappointing as the access road would have improved things," he said, adding that residents would be opposed to any expansion plans.

Robbers' appeal on sentences dismissed

TWO members of a gang of armed robbers who targeted businesses have been told they must remain behind bars after losing a bid to slash their jail sentences.

Former professional footballer Ryan Jones, of Walsall, whose career with Coventry City was wrecked by injury, and Imran Yusuf Zaman, 24, were involved in the spate of raids in which jewellery, cash and high-value cars were stolen.

Both were jailed for nine years at Wolverhampton Crown Court after they admitted conspiring to commit the robberies. They challenged their sentences at London's Criminal Appeal Court, with lawyers arguing they were "too long" for their limited involvement in the crimes.

But the appeal was dismissed by three senior judges who said "right-thinking people" might think the sentences lenient, rather than excessive.

The court heard that the gang committed 11 robberies between October 2010 and January 2011, targeting three jewellers, a bookmakers and homes.

Ellie walks with stars

THE honours keep on coming for Paralympic star Ellie Simmonds after she was named as one of the 12 contenders for this year's BBC's Sports Personality of the Year.

The teenage swimming sensation of the Paralympics, winning two gold medals, a silver and a bronze, goes for the top prize on her return to London for the awards night at the ExCel on December 16.

But the accolades don't stop there for the 18-year-old from Aldridge. Next week she will become the latest West Midlands personality to be honoured on Birmingham's Broad Street Walk of Stars. Ellie will be added to the famous landmark on December 6 after a ceremony at Edgbaston cricket ground.

COUNCIL DEFENDS BINSPECTOR MOVE

A CONTROVERSIAL zero-tolerance crackdown on rubbish being put in the wrong bins in Walsall has been defended by council chiefs. The move has seen scores of green recycling bins which were found to be containing the wrong rubbish go uncollected, angering residents.

Environment chief Tom Ansell defended the move, saying rubbish being put in the wrong bins can cost taxpayers thousands of pounds.

"Every tonne of rejected matter from our recycling rounds costs the council approximately £100 which is a cost that is being borne out by residents as council taxpayers," he said. "The average refuse lorry carried around eight tonnes of waste so it is clear that the cost of several tonnes of unsuitable items really adds up and in the worst case scenario adds up to thousands of pounds a day, which is unsustainable.

Rejected

"Currently around 20 per cent of recycling loads are being rejected and that is why we have been trying to inform residents about what can and can't be put in their green bins."

He added the majority of residents do recycle correctly but some were continuing to put the wrong rubbish in their bins.

Officers – dubbed 'binspectors' – have been travelling round with crews placing yellow stickers on any green bins found to contain incorrect items such as food waste, nappies and black bags. These bins have not been collected.

The zero-tolerance crackdown follows a leaflet campaign to target hotspot areas.

Grandfather-of-three John Swift, aged 74, did not have his bin emptied.

"I was told it was because there was a

by Catherine Dalton

small clean plastic container that should not have been in there," said Mr Swift, of Mill Lane, Willenhall.

"Why couldn't this just be taken out of the bin, put in the other one, and then the bin emptied?"

Mr Swift also said people could be putting things in bins while passing by and the homeowner will be penalised.

Wayne Paddock, aged 27, of Blackthorne Road, Walsall, saw the inspectors in action.

"I saw the officers put stickers on the bins and they were refusing to empty quite a few of the bins around our road," he said

"People will start putting more stuff in their grey bins if they're not sure and then the rubbish will start piling up. It's madness."

Deputy leader of the opposition Labour group Sean Coughlan, for Willenhall South, said: "Instead of a blank refusal to empty bins, the council should see how it can improve recycling rates and work with the contractor to deliver better outcomes."

Grand role for young dancers

A DANCE school in Willenhall is continuing its proud association with Wolverhampton Grand Theatre's annual panto.

Youngsters from the Classic Academy of Dance will be taking to the stage for a 15th consecutive year for this year's blockbuster pantomime

Sixteen twinkle-toed children are preparing to perform in Jack and the Beanstalk, alongside Coronation Street stars Sherrie Hewson and Ken Morley, at the Lichfield Street theatre.

Rehearsals

Two teams of eight will alternate, each taking turns to tread the boards.

The dancers, aged eight to 11, will have spent hours perfecting their steps by the time the curtain rises for the first time, following five weeks of rehearsals.

The panto runs from December 8 to January 20.

Lizi Watts, principal of the dance school in Lower Lichfield Street, said: "The teams always make me very proud."

Grand designs – Classic Academy of Dance students in Willenhall with principal Lizi Watts

Ice rink is attraction at town's festivities

WILLENHALL will host its first ice rink as part of Christmas celebrations on Saturday. It is hoped the move will boost shopper numbers.

The ice rink, which will be set up in Market Place, will be free for people to use and will be staged as part of the day's festivities alongside fire jugglers, Santa's grotto and a traditional market.

A new heritage trail leading visitors around some of the town's most historic sites will also be running, with guided tours taking place on the day.

The move has been welcomed by traders in the town.

Tony Butler, owner of Conway's Butchers, in the town centre, said traders hoped it would give the shops and market a boost.

"Anything to promote Willenhall and create a nice feeling in the town is good," said Mr Butler.

Festivities, which run from 10am to 5pm, will also include a traditional photography studio, a face painter, charity stalls and carol singers, as well as a museum entertainment bus.

Car parks to be free

SHOPPERS will get free parking in Walsall town centre in the run-up to Christmas.

Fees will be dropped on more than 1,300 town centre spaces on the weekends of December 8 and 9, 15 and 16 and 22 and 23.

There will also be free parking on Christmas and New Year bank holidays.

Transport chief Tom Ansell said: "I'm pleased to announce that the council will once again be offering free parking in the run up to Christmas.

"We want to support our businesses and encourage visitors to stay that bit longer to experience the Christmas atmosphere and all that Walsall has to offer."

Free parking will only apply to off-street car parks in the town centre.

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CONTACT US

Got a story to tell or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Walsall:

Tom Mason: 01902 319466
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlotte Lilley: 01902 319490
charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk
Will Ackermann: 01384 353213
will.ackermann@expressandstar.co.uk
Catherine Dalton 01922 444313
catherine.dalton@expressandstar.co.uk
Craig Hughes 01922 444316
craig.hughes@expressandstar.co.uk
Lisa O'Brien 01922 444312
lisa.obrien@expressandstar.co.uk
Marion Brennan 01543 465302
marion.brennan@expressandstar.co.uk

Email your pictures to:
walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Sports: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Photographic: John Sambrooks
Tel: 01902 319431
Email j.sambrooks@expressandstar.co.uk

Advertising: Samantha Broad
Tel: 01543 465331
E-mail: s.broad@expressandstar.co.uk

Property: Marguerita Finnegan
Tel: 01543 465337
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring: Jayne La'Hiffe
Tel: 01543 465334
E-mail: j.lahiffe@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319537
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

WALSALL thechronicle
Queen Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
www.walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

MP rallies opposition to boundary move

MORE than 700 people have signed a petition against plans to move parts of Wednesfield into a new political area called Walsall West.

Wolverhampton councillors and an MP set up a street stall to encourage people to protest against the proposals that have been drawn up by the Boundary Commission.

Wolverhampton North East MP Emma Reynolds, former MP Ken Purchase and Wednesfield North councillor Phil Bateman all manned the stall set up in Wednesfield High Street.

Miss Reynolds said: "People are up in arms about the idea of moving the council wards of Wednesfield North and Wednesfield South into a new parliamentary constituency of Walsall West.

Opposed

"The response that we got from the public should leave the Boundary Commission in no doubt that local residents are opposed to these plans. We will continue to collect signatures for the petition and submit them to the Commission."

Councillor Bateman added: "Over 700 local residents signed the petition. It is clear that they want to keep Wednesfield together and to remain part of Wolverhampton.

"Both Emma and I have received a lot of objections to these proposals as people, like me, believe that Wednesfield is more than the wards of Wednesfield North and South and that it stretches into parts of Heath Town and Fallings Park.

"I firmly believe that the residents of Wednesfield just do not want to be propelled by the Boundary Commission into Walsall West, where we have no links whatsoever. The reaction to the petition bears this out."

The Black Country would lose two MPs – one each from Wolverhampton and Sandwell – under the plans to change the boundaries.

The proposal is to carve up the Wolverhampton North East seat of Miss Reynolds into three segments with two parts being shared by the two remaining Wolverhampton seats and Wednesfield moving to the new Walsall West constituency.

Town hall is preparing for major rock concert

ACOUSTIC equipment worth £10,000 has been installed at Walsall Town Hall in preparation for the arrival of rock band Reverend and The Makers. The group is headlining the Walsall Music Festival on Saturday.

Preparations are being put in place, as organisers revealed there will be an after-party for all ticketholders.The venue for this will be announced on the night but will feature bands including Ghosts, who recently supported The Vaccines on tour, and The Rimes,.

More than 400 tickets have now been sold and organisers revealed Walsall Music Festival, being held throughout the day and into the evening, is attracting new visitors to the town.

Map

The event's website has been visited from people in London, Leeds, Sheffield and other parts of the UK.

Richard Langford, from organisers Walsall-based Breeze Experiential Marketing Ltd, said: "Apart from putting on a big event, what we wanted to do is to get Walsall back on the map.

"This just goes to show, even though it's a local event, if people come in to the town and have a good night, they'll come back again."

Work has been carried out in the Town Hall in Lichfield Street to make sure the acoustics are just right.

Bid to build a new base for Scouts

A GROWING scout group in Walsall could build a new headquarters under plans to take over a piece of derelict council-owned land.

The 1st Walsall Wood scouts hope to take on the patch of land in Brownhills Road, Walsall Wood, to create a community centre.

They plan to use it as a base for the group, which has around 60 young members and 25 volunteers, and for other community organisations. It would involve the transfer of the land, once used as a council depot, to the group.

Council chiefs will discuss leasing the land to the Scout Association Trust at the next cabinet meeting, on December 12.

Lee Bragginton, scout group leader, said: "We currently meet in one of the local schools, which does restrict our usage.

"We're not just looking for our own headquarters but we're trying to create a community centre not only for our own use but for others such as the Guides.

If approved by cabinet, the scheme would then have to go through the usual planning stages.

Christmas crafts for youngsters

A CHRISTMAS story and crafts session will take place at Walsall Wood Library on Saturday morning.

It is suitable for under eights and takes place from 10.30am to noon. Call (01922) 655572 to book.

Brief encounters led to India trip

Facing the front, from left, are 'pantrepreneurs' Donna Stevenson, Connie Horgan and Shaun Welch, who have gone on a fact-finding trip to rural India

STUDENTS from Walsall who won the Pants for Poverty Fair Trade underwear design competition are in India this week living and working with villagers.

The Dynamic Design team from Walsall College will be harvesting in the cotton fields of Semla in Odisha for a fortnight, in preparation the next Pantrepreneur Challenge in 2013.

Winning team members Connie Horgan, Donna Stevenson, Matthew Paskin and Shaun Welch will see the £20,000 they helped raise from the sale of pants go towards sanitation, sports and teaching equipment in Indian schools.

Shaun said: "Winning the competition and ultimately the opportunity to travel to India was my biggest highlight of the whole experience."

More than 250 college students nationally had to design, market and sell Olympic themed designs for pants

Ben Ramsden, founder of Pants for Poverty said: "The Pantrepreneur Challenge 2012 was a life-transforming experience for the students who took part.

"The entrepreneurs who emerged were completely different people from the young people who started out."

Pants to Poverty supports cotton farmers in India by sourcing the materials for its products directly from them, supporting the establishment of social businesses such as cotton seed companies, while also funding educational programmes.

They will next year launch the same competition in colleges with the winning collection in shops by spring.

Principal is sought for new school

A PRINCIPAL is being sought for a new Studio School on a salary of up to £70,000 a year.

It is being created inside the £2.7 million Goldmine Youth Training Centre in Walsall town centre.

The closing date for applications to be "a talented and inspirational leader who has the passion and commitment to embrace the vision and ethos of the new studio school" was on Monday.

Opening

Whoever is chosen will take up position as soon as possible to work alongside the trust and senior leadership team to plan and prepare the school's opening in 2013.

The school, being created after winning government approval, will cater for up to 300 pupils aged 14 to 19. It aims to make learning more like a workplace experience.

The advertisement for the job says studio schools are a new type of state school model for 14 to 19-year-olds.

Estate gets playground

A NEW games area is being created on a Walsall estate where play equipment had to be removed due to vandalism.

Work has got under way on the new play area in Lister Close, Beechdale.

Residents were assured that police and council officers would make sure everything "runs smoothly" there.

A temporary play space and football pitch has been placed there in recent months and has already been credited with helping to reduce anti-social behaviour on the estate.

There will be play equipment for children, space for sports and exercise equipment for adults.

Friendship Care and Housing is working on the scheme in partnership with Groundwork UK and the equipment is expected to be in use by the spring.

Consultation has taken place with residents in surrounding streets.

Nursery work

IMPROVEMENT work is being carried out at a nursery in Walsall.

A new air conditioning system is being installed at Sure Start Birchills Nursery, in Birchills Street.

The work is being carried out by Weatherite Building Services.

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New vets at former pub site as more jobs created

A VETERINARY practice is has opened at the site of a derelict Walsall pub – completing the second phase of a £1.3 million regeneration scheme at the former Four Crosses pub.

White Cross Vets has moved in at the Leamore Lane site, creating three jobs. It is next door to a new drive-thru KFC restaurant, creating up to 40 jobs.

Campaigners wanted the site revamped and spruced up after it became a magnet for anti-social behaviour.

Birchills-Leamore Councillor Lee Jeavons said: "It's great to see the work all completed now. Both the KFC and the vets are open and it all seems to be working perfectly well."

Bulldozers

Work on redevelopment at the junction of Leamore Lane and Somerfield Road started in summer. Bulldozers flattened the old pub building earlier this year after it stood empty for more than two years.

Planning permission for the scheme was won in January, with councillors welcoming the new jobs.

KFC opened first with the veterinary practice opening a week later.

It is the latest regeneration scheme to forge ahead in the Walsall borough.

A new £10 million, 100 room. Premier Inn hotel, boasting 65 jobs, is set to open next month.

Top head is on her way to Pheasey

THE head of one of a Wolverhampton's most successful primary schools is taking charge at a Walsall school.

Sally Lanni, head of Villiers Primary, Bilston, Wolverhampton, is leaving at Christmas to be head at Pheasey Park Farm Primary School and Children's Centre.

She has been Villiers head for 15 years and helped it to three consecutive outstanding Ofsted inspections.

Mrs Lanni said she chose Pheasey Park Farm because it is one of the largest primary schools in the country and she wants to to "build upon the existing strengths".

She wants to develop her new school into a centre of excellence.

Most wanted mugshots put on website

MUGSHOTS of crime suspects with Walsall links have been been released as West Midlands Police relaunch the region's 'most wanted' gallery.

Detectives are appealing to the public for information that could lead them to Robert Knight and Laurentiu Dragotoiu.

The new Wanted Gallery features the faces of several crime suspects wanted for questioning in connection with importing drugs, large scale metal theft, burglary, robbery and false imprisonment.

Detectives revealed that 41-year-old Knight, from Walsall, is wanted in connection with conspiracy to import cocaine from South America.

Burglary

Meanwhile, 35-year-old Dragotoiu is wanted in connection with a burglary in Walsall in February last year.

Superintendent Steve Graham said: "We had a tremendous response from our communities when the rogues gallery was initially launched and, as a result, captured some of our most wanted offenders. Many are now behind bars.

"The relaunched site is easier to use and includes new images of suspects, so I would encourage people to flick through the faces. When the public and police work together we can achieve great things."

See www.west-midlands.police.uk/wanted

Robert Knight – suspect

Laurentiu Dragotoiu

Market traders hoping rent rise will be delayed

TALKS have been held between market traders and council officers in Walsall over controversial plans to increase rents and make an extra £100,000 a year.

Cash-strapped Walsall Council wants to raise charges at 98 stalls by £5 a day, which has prompted concerns that some traders will snub it.

Tony Larner, chairman of the Market Trader's Association, said he had put across the worries raised by stallholders and now hopes the council will choose to put the plans on hold due to the harsh economic climate.

He said: "A rent increase is not a good thing. I'm hoping to convince the council to put it on hold for a year or two or until the economy gets back on its feet.

"It could cause someone to leave the market completely or those with two or three stalls could drop down to one stall.

Risk

"I'm going to talk to the traders again and then write to the council or arrange another meeting."

The authority says increasing market rents to raise an extra £100,000 would depend on maintaining the same number of traders.

Council bosses have admitted there is a risk the number of stallholders could fall if the rents go up.

Rent for the 98 stalls on the market varies from £20 to £40, with 65 paying the higher tariff.

Figures this year showed the market's income was £313,745 in 12 months – helping with shortfalls at markets such as Willenhall.

The market's role and town centre location is currently subject to a review.

Walsall Council needs to save £70 million over the next four years, with £13m saved in 2013 to 2014.

99p store is taking over town centre supermarket

AN EMPTY supermarket in Willenhall has been taken on by new owners – creating 30 much-needed new jobs.

Budget retailer 99p Stores is to open in the former Somerfield store on New Road. It is currently in the midst of a £250,000 refit and is expected to open in around a week's time.

The building, one of the biggest in Willenhall, has been standing empty for more than a year.

Hussein Lalani, boss of 99p Stores, said they were "thrilled" to be opening another store in the West Midlands, following the launch of a new branch in Great Barr.

"We have very many branches in the region and the new Willenhall branch is coming as a result of people power," he said.

The new opening is part of a major expansion by the firm. It hopes to create 3,000 jobs across the UK and Ireland over the next two years. Willenhall will be the company's 214th store.

Flooding hits the borough

The recently refurbished landmark boathouse at Walsall Arboretum is flooded out following the weekend deluge

HEAVY rain sent water gushing into homes and caused chaos on the roads and railways. In Walsall, the Arboretum lake flooded, forcing the closure of the main gates at the Clocktower entrance on Sunday.

Lichfield Road in Pelsall had to close on Sunday morning due to flooding. Gulley vehicles were used to suck water away from the road, while crews had to dig a channel into the footpath to help water drain away.

Cartbridge Lane South and Griffins Crescent in Rushall also flooded.

A burst pipe caused further problems at Walsall Council's First Stop Shop, leaving the Darwall Street site under water. Staff worked throughout Sunday to dry out the building but Councillor Chris Towe, finance chief, said: "We would ask residents who don't have an urgent inquiry to delay their visits to the First Stop Shop."

NEWS in brief

Curious history of the Colts explored

THE curious history of the most mysterious artefacts in the collection of Walsall Museum is to be explored in an illustrated talk on Tuesday.

The museum's mysterious Bayard's Colts, a set of 17 carved wooden ceremonial clubs, will be presented by Jennifer Thomson, Community History Curator at Walsall Museum. She has been undertaking research into their 300 yeaers of history. People attending the talk will be able to view the Colts for themselves.

The talk, entitled 'The Curious History of the Bayard's Colts', is from 2pm. It costs £1 and advance booking is essential. Contact the museum on 01922 653116 or email museum@walsall.gov.uk

Laughs for cash helps association

AN amateur theatre company donated more than £700 to a Walsall community centre after putting on a comedy show to help with fundraising.

The money will go towards repairs and running costs at the borough's African Caribbean Community Association. Black Country theatre group Kiss Mi Neck raised a total of £752.20 from its comedy sketch show at the Wolverhampton Road centre.

Festive fun all day in Darlaston street

A HOST of charity stalls and activities will be held in Darlaston's town centre as part of this year's Christmas festival.

The day-long event, organised by Darlaston town centre management and event committee is due to be held in King Street on Saturday, December 8 from 10am till 5pm.

Volunteers needed to help clear ditches

DITCH clearing will take place at a beauty spot on the Walsall-Sandwell border on Tuesday.

The Friends of Merrions Wood, in Great Barr, need volunteers to help out from 10am. Meet at Skip Lane.

Easy walk in Warks

WALSALL Group of the Ramblers will be heading to Ilmington, near Shipston on Stour for an easy 7.5 mile circular walk on Sunday. Contact the walk leader 0121 440 7929

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THURSDAYS In The Park, by 62-year-old Hilary Boyd, is a tale of sex for the over-60s and has become a sudden sensation. It had to happen. Our big, cosseted, super-confident Babyboomer generation has yelled about its sex life from the rooftops for the past 50 years, so why stop now? The big difference is that back in the 1960s you lit the candles, switched the music on low, slipped into the kitchen for that bottle of champagne and va-va-voom. Half a century on, you light the candles, switch the music on low, slip into the kitchen, can't remember what you're doing there and decide to dismantle the thermostat on the boiler. Exciting, but how do you turn it into a novel?

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

ON the four days preceding last Wednesday, the forecast was wall-to-wall sunshine across England. Come Wednesday, the heavens opened. It was the sort of downpour you could probably have predicted with a pine cone and a bit of seaweed yet the professionals, with billions of pounds' worth of satellites and computers, missed it.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

MEANWHILE, global warming appears to have cooled down. Met Office figures show temperatures dropped during 2011 and 2012 from the high levels of 2010. It goes without saying that the experts dismiss this as "statistically meaningless." It only becomes meaningful when the temperature goes up.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

UNDETERRED by the weather, Mrs Rhodes and I wrapped up warm and strolled into town, pausing for light entertainment at our local ford which was full and foaming and too much for some drivers to resist. It is one of the eternal mysteries of life that a man (rarely a woman) will risk £20,000 worth of car in a ford rather than make a short detour. Sure enough, a BMW was up to its axles, the owner very red-faced.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

ONE of the great myths of our time is that if developers are allowed to cover the Green Belt with houses and factories, Britain's economy will boom again. Bunkum. The Town & Country Planning Act which created the Green Belt, has been with us for the past 65 years. In that time, Britain has been through both booms and busts, which suggests that the Green Belt is not a big factor in the economy. It is, however, a huge factor in making this country a decent place to live. And when David Cameron announces he will limit the right of citizens to ask for judicial reviews of controversial plans, alarm bells should ring. The Green Belt made Britain pretty when it had a population of 50 million, keeps it comfortable with 60 million and is the only thing that will make it bearable if our leaders in Whitehall are stupid enough to let it rise to 70 million. If we lose the Green Belt we lose the England we knew.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

THIS little announcement is tucked away in this month's statement for my credit card: "From your next statement the minimum payment on your credit card will be rounded up to the nearest pound." Multiply that a few million times and it's a very nice little earner.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Private cemetery opens to meet demand

A NEW £1.4 million private cemetery on the Walsall and Staffordshire border has officially opened.

Thousands of plots had already been purchased at Walsall Burial Park months before its unveiling.

It has been created in response to growing pressure for burial sites across the region. The site off the A5195 in Burntwood will serve Walsall, Cannock and Lichfield.

The eight-acre site has been created by Springhill Cemetery Group and includes more than 1,000 plots for cremated remains and around 5,000 burial plots.

Planning

Group manager Kamran Saleem said: "This site has been in planning since 2010 and looks set to be in service for the next 20 years.

"We work tirelessly to comply with council regulations to achieve planning permission to successfully change the use of disused agricultural land, providing peaceful cemetery sites across the UK."

The site has a designated Muslim section providing single occupancy plots.

A total of 20 parking spaces have been created and there are 100 reserve spaces around the perimeter road at the site. Five jobs could be created with potential for more.

A building including a reception area, public facilities and staff amenities is to be added.

Springhill Cemetery Group also has a 30,000-space burial ground off Walsall Road in Lichfield.

Across the region, there has been growing pressure for burial spaces.

Meanwhile, planning permission has recently been granted for an 8,000 space cemetery in Great Wyrley.

£30m rail line project boosts station move

LONG-STANDING plans to create a new train station in Bloxwich could be revived by the electrification of the Walsall to Rugeley line.

Moves to relocate the station near to its original site by Croxstalls Road have been under review by Walsall Council for a number of years. It is now believed the £30 million electrification scheme would further bolster the case, resulting in a better location, improved security and park-and-ride facilities.

by Craig Hughes

Council chiefs say the electrification of the line makes the project more viable.

Electrification is expected to lead to extra passengers heading into Walsall on faster and more frequent trains.

Aspiration

It could help push forward a better case to Network Rail to relocate Bloxwich station from Croxdene Avenue.

Head of strategic regeneration at the council Mark Lavender said: "This is still an aspiration of the council, although building a business case for the change is difficult when it is only served by one train per hour.

"This situation may improve once electrification and service improvements are completed."

But the Government-backed move to speed up the line has not been without criticism due to proposals to close the Bloxwich level crossing.

A petition has been launched by families in Dudley Fields amid fears it will lead to increased traffic in residential areas.

A bridge for pedestrians and cyclists is being proposed to replace the lost route as part of the scheme put forward by Network Rail and Walsall Council, while Central Drive bridge could be strengthened to cope with the extra traffic.

The council said initial responses to a consultation period had shown support for the move but Bloxwich councillor Fred Westley said there were concerns from people living in the area.

He said: "There are grave concerns over the amount of traffic which will use the Dudley Fields Estate as a shortcut."

Hospital hotel hopes

A PARTNER may soon be chosen for a proposed hotel for patients and relatives who need to be near to Walsall Manor Hospital. Developers say they are talking to a couple of interested parties about a proposed 60-bedroom patient hotel on the nearby site of the demolished Forge Hammer pub, Rollingmill Street.

It may create up to 30 jobs. Development firm Gora Developments says it will cost about £4 million for a hotel providing additional accommodation for people who do not need to be on hospital wards but do need to be near medical facilities. Patient hotels are based on a concept of a more relaxed and friendly atmosphere than a hospital ward.

Development manager Raj Kumar said: "We are still looking for an operating partner and we are talking to a couple of people. We would be looking to make an announcement at the start of the year."

Sweet idea for business

Sian Westley and Loren Peabody at Scrumptious Sweets & Treats shop in Aldridge

OPENING a sweet shop in Aldridge town centre was a new venture for father-of-four Mark Lowe after being made redundant. Now he is hoping to boost trade by catering for children's birthday parties.

The 46-year-old is enlisting the help of Aldridge's Paralympic swimming star Ellie Simmonds to launch the new part of his business at Scrumptious Sweets & Treats, which has created two new jobs.

The upstairs of the former Custard Confectionery shop in Anchor Parade has been converted into a play space for children's parties. Mr Lowe invested £50,000 in the new shop which now employs seven staff.

He said using the upstairs as a play area and party venue would help make the business profitable.

Ellie, who won two golds, a silver and bronze medal, will launch the new sweet shop themed parties on Saturday at a special invitation-only event.

Rugby club members delighted at new HQ

MEMBERS of a rugby club which has risen from the ashes of an arson attack are delighted to have started using their new £350,000 clubhouse.

The clubhouse at Aldridge Rugby Club is open following the completion of building work and a bar licence being granted. It boasts changing rooms, a meeting room, dining space, showers, toilets and a bar.

Work just remains to connect the water supply and an official opening is expected in the new year.

Club bosses secured £120,000 funding for the project from the Rugby Football Union (£70,000) and Sport England (£50,000).

Team secretary Jeff Large said: "We haven't opened officially yet. We are using it for training. All the building work is finished. We are just waiting for the water to be connected.

"It's been three years in the making. It's a joy to see it there. It's absolutely marvellous."

The facility is expected to allow the club to introduce a third team and maybe more. The club currently has about 70 playing members and two teams.

A suspected arson attack destroyed the previous clubhouse at the Bourne Vale site in 2009. Planning permission was granted last year for the new scheme and the club got the benefit of Olympic Legacy funding.

Garden plan for eyesore

A DERELICT former allotment site in Darlaston will be cleared and turned into a community garden.

Letters are being sent to residents near Herberts Park Road informing them of the plans. The former allotments have long been the subject of complaints over fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.

Lorries and diggers are due on site this week to clear the land. A public consultation will be carried out with people in Herberts Park Road and Stanbury Avenue.

Lottery windfall

WALSALL Deaf Peoples Centre has received £9,559 from The Big Lottery Fund to carry out essential wiring work at its base in Lichfield Street, Walsall. Itis an Awards For All grant.

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Student is jailed over fake passport

A 21-year-old Indian student who used a fake passport to get a job at a metal plating firm in Walsall has been jailed. Sanjeev Kumar was working at Anochrome after illegally gaining an Italian passport.

Kumar, of Clarence Road, Handsworth, was sentenced to six months jail after admitting possessing false documents with intent.

Kulwinder Kaur, 42, of Wednesbury Road, Walsall, admitted the same charge. She was bailed to appear for sentencing on December 7.

Kumar and Kaur were arrested by UK Border Agency officers – who were acting on intelligence – on August 23 at Anochrome, Reservoir Place, Pleck.

No blame was found to lie with the company, which fully co-operated with the investigation and will face no further action.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Kumar was found to have used a false Italian passport to secure employment with the business as an EU citizen.

Visa

Kaur had a bogus endorsement in her Indian passport, showing that she had indefinite leave to remain in the UK.

Kumar was in the UK on a student visa but was working illegally in breach of his visa conditions while Kaur had overstayed her visa.

Neil Cross, from the UK Border Agency's criminal and financial investigations team, said: "This case shows that we will track down, detain and prosecute those fraudsters who have no right to be in the UK.

"Our specialist crime teams of immigration and police officers working together are cracking down on all forms of immigration abuse, whether this is using false identities, document fraud or sham marriages."

The UK Border Agency will work to send both fraudsters to India after they have served their sentences.

Anochrome is part of Anochrome Group, which specialises in coating and finishing metal. The company formed in 1946 and its head office is in Wolverhampton.

Neighbour's swift check saves an OAP

A 96-year-old man was rescued from his smoke-filled home in Walsall after a blaze broke out in his kitchen.

The fire alarm went off at the house in Salters Place in Pleck at 4.15pm on Tuesday of last week, alerting staff at a community alarm scheme run by Walsall Council and the local fire station.

The pensioner failed to respond to a call from the scheme's switchboard workers who then alerted a neighbour. She saw smoke and called the emergency services.

The pensioner, who had left food cooking on the stove, had to be given oxygen at the scene and was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital for checks.

Mick Birch, operations commander for Walsall fire service, said: "This is a real success story for the community alarm scheme. The gentleman's breathing stats were really low when he was rescued. It might have been too late by the time he was found if the neighbour had not been contacted."

People over 80 can register for a fire safety check which includes the installation of a keycode alarm for the front door.

Park rangers thank firms

PARK rangers in Walsall have thanked companies in the West Midlands for rallying around and helping out with this year's three borough bonfires.

Firms answered a plea for hundreds of wooden pallets needed to create the huge bonfires that were held in Bloxwich, Brownhills and Willenhall.

Delivered

Senior ranger John Morris said: "We can't thank the businesses that helped us enough. They donated and delivered absolutely loads of pallets to us.

"So it's a huge thank-you to Aspray Transport Ltd in Willenhall, Aqualux in Wednesbury, DSV Solutions Ltd in Brownhills and Holden's Brewery. We really couldn't have staged these events without their tremendous support."

Company in profit

HOMESERVE has revealed a surge in profits over the last six months. Profit before tax at the Walsall-based home repairs giant was up nine per cent to £25.6 million aided by the strong performance of its French arm Domeo.

£12m bid to transform town centre shops area

TALKS are being held with traders who currently occupy a site earmarked for £12million redevelopment in Walsall town centre.

Norton & Proffitt wants to demolish the buildings in Digbeth in a scheme which could create up to 200 jobs.

If proposals are given the nod, new shops and a restaurant would be built on the same site where businesses including Greggs, H & T Pawnbrokers and Acorns Children's Hospice charity shop are currently situated in St Matthew's Quarter.

Boost

Regeneration boss Councillor Adrian Andrew said some existing businesses may need to be relocated if the scheme goes ahead but could take places in the new shopping parade.

He said: "It could be that they move out and move back in when it is developed."

The planning application is expected to be considered at a later stage by the authority.

Cllr Andrew has welcomed the scheme as a boost for Walsall town centre.

It comes as work on Primark at Old Square Shopping Centre is due to get under way in the New Year. A new Co-op will also form part of the transformation of the shopping centre.

The big-name companies are poised to create 160 jobs between them.

Primark will have a glass front onto Digbeth, while the Co-op will be in the former Tesco on The Bridge.

Improvements are also proposed for Debenhams. A new health and beauty hall along with a revamped restaurant will be created at the store, although the scheme is not due to get under way until 2014.

Meanwhile, Deichmann shoe store opened in the town centre last week.

An artist's impression of the planned £12 million retail development in Walsall town centre's St Matthews Quarter

This row of shops at St Matthew's Quarter in the town centre is set to make way for the new retail development

Drink-driver banned after 70mph chase

A 22-year-old drink-driver upset over the break up of a relationshp led police on a 70mph chase through residential streets in Walsall at the wheel of a lorry.

Ashley Lewis was on bail accused of drink driving when spotted by officers travelling along Bloxwich Road at 1.40 am on October 20, prosecutor Mark Phillips told Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

One motorist was forced off the road as Lewis tried to escape from his pursuers by driving the Ford Transit Tipper at more than double the speed limit.

When he stopped a test revealed a reading of 48 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35.

Mr Nigel Ford, defending, said Lewis went "off the rails" following the break down of a relationship.

"At the time of this offence he had a couldn't-care-less attitude although he now appreciates that he has got to get himself sorted out," he added.

Lewis, from Kinnerley Street, Chuckery, admitted both dangerous and drink driving.

He was given a ten month prison sentence suspended for two years and banned from driving for three years.

NEWS in brief

'Tree of Light' for messages of love

A SPECIAL Christmas tree will go up in a Willenhall supermarket thanks to the Rotary Club of Willenhall. It is the third year that a Tree of Light, with lights and messages in memory of loved ones, has been erected by the club.

It will be installed on Monday at Morrisons in the town. In return for a charity donation a light and a message can be placed at the foot of the tree and in a book of remembrance in the main library in Willenhall.

A dedication service forms part of the candlelight carol service at St Giles, 7pm, December 12.

Focus on festive poems and songs

WALSALL Leather Museum is inviting people to an evening of festive poetry, drama and songs on Friday, December 7.

Christmas Crackers will be performed by Lichfield Theatre Group at 7pm. Those attending also get a glass of wine, festive buffet and a 25 per cent discount in the museum's shop.

Tickets cost £16 including the buffet and booking is essential. For more information or to book a place call the museum on (01922) 721153.

Lions roared into action for guides

ALDRIDGE and District Lions have made an £800 donation to the Girl Guides in the Midlands.

The cash has gone towards a £95,000 appeal to get a narrowboat which can be used by Guide groups of the Birmingham and Northampton area. Their previous narrowboat was too old. The new boat was launched earlier this month at Alvechurch marina.

Pupils in London for African project

BUDDING journalists from a Walsall school paid a visit to the offices of The Guardian newspaper in London. Twelve Year 10 students from Barr Beacon School made the trip and worked on a project about a poverty-stricken area of Uganda. It helped boost their information technology skills.

Ball helps charity

A BALL will take place at Fishley Park, Pelsall, on Saturday from 7pm. Tickets cost £6 adults and £3 children, available on 07792 919812. The ball is in aid of Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society.

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NEWS

Drew has drawn on his animation skills

AS a lad Drew Roper had a dream that he would be the next Walt Disney and win the World Cup. However, two knee operations left him unable to play football so he turned to his other passion – drawing.

by Cathy Spencer

Now the 25-year-old from Walsall Wood is an animator whose work, which he creates at his Yamination Studios, has won him a number of awards. He has been commissioned by Sky to create a short piece of animation which will hopefully be seen at prestigious film and animation festivals.

"Earlier this year I heard Sky were putting forward £30,000 for someone to make a short animation," says Drew. "Out of 700 applications I got through to the final eight and the judges included Jo Whiley.

"I won and now I'm making a short film about a puppet's struggle to get a dream job. It is just six minutes long but it takes 24 frames to get a second of footage so it is going to take months to finish."

Art

Drew, who was a pupil at Cooper Jordan Primary and Aldridge High Schools, says that as child he loved watching cartoons like Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Postman Pat and Spot the Dog.

"After my knee operations I studied cartoons like Wallace and Gromit and Wind in the Willows, which use stop-frame animation and decided that I wanted to be an animator," he says.

Drew went to Sutton Coldfield College to do an art foundation course and it was after he finished his animation degree at Southampton University that he got his got his first job.

"After I graduated I was looking for work and became a crew member on Fantastic Mr Fox, which was an animation with George Clooney and Meryl Streep as voices for two of the characters," he says. "However, my job was less glamorous, working in a warehouse in London, boxing up or smashing sets that had been used.

"After that I was looking for work for quite a while and when you send out hundreds of DVDs and don't hear anything back it can get worrying, so I was working part-time in shops as well as doing a few commissions with my drawings."

Drew didn't give up on his dream and The Lighthouse Media Centre in Wolverhampton made him animator in residence from September 2009 to June this year. He had his own studio but says getting work was still hard going.

"For a few months I had to borrow cash off mum and dad to make ends meet," says Drew, who lives with his parents Andrew and Jeanette.

"But I had a studio and after a while I had the chance to do some animation work for Luke 1977 Designer Clothing, which is a big fashion brand.

"It was a humorous piece about the history of denim. It was made into a DVD which was then handed to customers when they bought something."

Drew Roper from Walsall with two of his stop-motion models

That short film won awards including the Audience Award in the Humour Category at the Babelgum Animatron Animation Festival in New York, the Stop Motion Animation Award at the Isle of Wight International Film Festival and the Animation Award at Staffordshire Festival of Performing Arts and Film.

"I then worked on another campaign for Luke 1977, which was a short film for their website," he says. "Last year I worked on the animation Frankenweenie as a crew member again, getting out the scenes that I had put away from Fantastic Mr Fox. It was a great experience and at least it gets your foot in the doo."

Drew moved into a studio at the Custard Factory in Birmingham in June.

"My ultimate dream is to have a successful studio which rivals Aardman or Disney but I would keep it in the West Midlands and I want to put the region on the animation map," he added.

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NEWS

Bravery award for a Little Star

Five-year-old Isabella Lyttle from Rushall with her mother Jennie, father Mark and her Little Star award

A YOUNGSTER who overcame cancer and received a national charity award for her bravery is inspiring others to be a Little Star.

Five-year-old Isabella Lyttle, from Rushall, received a Cancer Research UK Little Star award for her bravery. Relatives and friends of other young cancer patients are being urged to nominate them for recognition.

The youngster began showing symptoms, feeling frequently sick when she was aged three. Doctors diagnosed neuroblastoma in October 2010 after she visited Walsall Manor Hospital complaining of a bad pain in her hip. Tests showed her platelets levels, which helps the blood to clot, were low. She had an MRI scan and was transferred to Birmingham Children's Hospital, where her parents Jennie Dalton and Mark Lyttle, both 36, were told she had cancer.

Tumour

A tumour in her abdomen was pressing on a nerve, causing the pain in her hip and further investigations revealed the cancer had spread to her shoulder and leg.

Ms Dalton, of Rough Brook Road, said: "I had known there was something wrong with her, but never in a million years did I think it would be cancer. It was a total shock."

The St Francis Primary School pupil had three months of chemotherapy, followed by an eight-hour operation to remove the tumour in her abdomen and treatment continued until she was given the all-clear earlier this year.

Ms Dalton said: "Isabella's hair has grown back all curly, and she loves doing ballet and dressing up. It hasn't all been plain sailing, and all the disruption has had some effect on her, but I feel that we're coming out the other side now."

She added: "Clinical trials are so important to make sure children get the very best treatment available, so we are very grateful to Cancer Research UK for its funding of such trials.

Unlike other children's awards, there is no judging panel. Nominated youngsters are given a trophy, a £50 TK Maxx gift card and certificate signed by celebrities. Wellwishers can nominate young people under the age of 18 who are battling cancer, or have undergone treatment for the disease in the past five years.Visit www.cancerresearchuk.org for more information.

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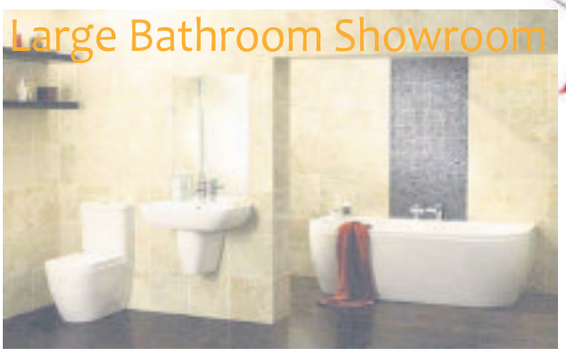

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NEWS

Christmas Eve markets in bid to boost trade

CHRISTMAS Eve markets will be held in Willenhall and Bloxwich this year to help traders get the benefit of last-minute shoppers.

by Craig Hughes

The extra market day has been organised for December 24 so stallholders can gain from the laste festive season rush. Both markets are usually closed on a Monday but the council has now stepped in to organise additional events.

The main Walsall Market is also due to be open on the Monday, as usual, so stallholders can get a boost from festive footfall. The town centre pitch will also open on the Sunday before Christmas.

Advantage

However, some market days will be cancelled between Christmas and New Year.

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said he hoped shoppers would take advantage of extra Bloxwich and Willenhall markets.

"We do a lot to support all the district centres in Walsall. I hope people will use them and appreciate what we are trying to do to help the economy," he said.

Bob King, a fruit and veg trader on Willenhall Market, said it has been done previously and proved a success.

"It is a good thing and I am sure 80 per cent of traders will want it," he said. "There are last-minute shoppers and it is a good opportunity for traders."

Walsall Market will also have additional events on the Thursdays of December 6, 13 and 20. It will not be taking place on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day before resuming as normal on January 2.

Bloxwich and Willenhall, which are usually held three days a week, will be closed during the Christmas to New Year period before returning on January 4 and 2 respectively.

PJs party helps hospice

REVELLERS flooded into a Walsall pub in their nightwear to raise cash for a Walsall hospice. Yates's, in Leicester Street, raised £810 for St Giles Walsall Hospice. Peter Finch,deputy manager, said: "People gave their wholehearted support and showed how much St Giles Walsall Hospice means to them by coming to the pub in their pyjamas."

Brush wins award

From left, Stephen Coupe of Coventry University, patron Lord Stafford and Peter Wilkes of Vale Brothers

A TRADITIONAL Walsall manufacturer which has developed a groundbreaking bacteria-killing brush for horses in partnership with university boffins has won a prestigious Lord Stafford Award.

Walsall-based Vale Brothers and Coventry University collaborated on the KBF99 product range of plastic horse brushes and other accessories, which are treated with an antimicrobial additive which kills 99.9 per cent of bacteria, massively reducing the risk of potentially fatal infections.

Recognise

At the awards dinner for the Lord Stafford Awards at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry, the collaboration won the top prize in the Innovation category.

The awards, now in their 15th year, were set up to showcase, celebrate and recognise collaborations between business and academia in developing innovative products, processes or services.

The range is now on the market and is already being exported to horse lovers around the world with commitment from distributors to sell the range in the USA and Canada, Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Germany.

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The best money I have ever spent – Clive

Teeth made From start to finish in Wolverhampton

THE principal of a dental clinic is championing a 'Teeth Made in Wolverhampton' campaign for his dentures which have attracted patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal.

His nationally acclaimed prosthetics, once prescribed and crafted only at his Dudley practice, are now availalbe at his Tettenhall Road clinic.

Steven Burchell DipCDT RSC(Eng), who first made headlines as "the smile mechanic" ten years ago, has established one of the most high-profile reputations in the West Midlands for his work in resolving denture problems.

And the secret of his success, which this year has seen the Denture Clinic buck the national trend and undertake a £1m expansion investment? A seamless service to clients, where they are clinically assessed and have their prescriptions hand-crafted "all under one roof."

"It's a simple formula," says Steve, "but it has allowed me to be fastidious about the quality of teeth we supply."

Embracing the disciplines of implant dentistry in the beautifully presented practice where implantologist Jonathan Pugh BDS MSc runs his Total Implant Solutions surgeries, Steve moved into the building earlier this year. Both clinicians work closely together providing implant-retained dentures and the popular All-on-4 implant overdentures, where a complete upper or lower set of teeth can be fitted in a single day.

With an on-site surgery and laboratory dedicated to denture provision, the arrangment "allows an acute eye to detail on made-in-Wolverhampton prescriptions," says Steve. Recalling some of his patients, who have literally travelled thousands of miles to have teeth made at the Denture Clinic, Steve adds: "We will never compromise on best possible clinical outcomes." Recently, the clinic purchased two cutting-edge injection moulding machines which offer patients pin-point fitting accuracy.

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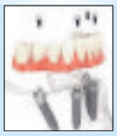

ONE of the most advanced options for denture wearers is an implant system called All-on-4 offering a permanently retained full arch of teeth in a single day. Amazing!

Traditional

THE Denture Clinic is renowned for its natural look. Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng), says: "Quality, traditional dentures can be hugely effective."

Suction

DENTURES which use suction to stay in place are helping to resolve common stability problems. The The Ultra Suction teeth are held in place by tiny valve-operated devices fitted into the prosthetic.

NEWS

Town's art gallery can't cope with Staffs Hoard

WALSALL'S New Art Gallery does not have the facilities required to host an exhibition including Anglo-Saxon treasure from the Staffordshire Hoard, Walsall's leisure boss has revealed.

The Staffordshire Hoard – the largest collection of Dark Ages gold ever found in the UK – was found in Hammerwich and on the border with Brownhills in July 2009.

Campaigners have called for an exhibition in Walsall to help highlight the town's links to the find. Brownhills resident Doug Birch raised the issue with councillors during a meeting last week. He demanded to know why no such display has yet been held at the New Art Gallery.

He said an exhibition of hoard finds at The Potteries Museum in Stoke was pulling in high visitor numbers and a similar display in Walsall would "contribute significantly to the regeneration and reputation of Walsall borough as well as providing residents with a good reason to visit the publicly-funded gallery."

Issues

But Walsall leisure boss, Councillor Anthony Harris, said officers had made inquiries and there were a number of issues.

He said the art gallery did not have the facilities to exhibit the hoard. Transport and security was likely to cost between £70,000 and £100,000 to bring any items into Walsall and that would not include the "star pieces". He said the authority had been told there was no likelihood of any items being loaned to Walsall for "some considerable time".

But he added: "That does not mean we will give up". He said the idea would not be forgotten and museums in the borough may be better suited in the future.

Mr Birch asked the council to support some kind of monument to mark the place where the Staffordshire Hoard was discovered and the suggestion is to be pursued by the authority. The idea is the brainchild of Brownhills resident Brian Stringer.

A tiny portion of items from the Staffordshire Hoard are on show at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Doctors help fund hospice

Hospice fundraiser Jenny Chin (front) with, back from left, Walsall Local Medical Council Executive Officer Carolyn Andrew, Nurse Debbie Simmons, Chairman Dr Ajit Desai, Dr Sushma Manthri, Nurse Sylvia Ryder and Dr Sumathy Nambisan

GPS across Walsall have presented a cash gift of more than £48,000 to St Giles Hospice.

Dr Ajit Desai, Chairman of Walsall Local Medical Communities and a GP partner in Great Wyrley, presented the cash gift to hospice staff. The money will go towards funding the care for terminally ill patients from across the region, at a cost of £1.6 million a year.

Funding came from a trust fund which was initially set up by GPs to finance the Edinburgh Ward at the former Goscote Hospital, which is now run by the charity on the site of the old hospital. The £48,200 is part of a total donation of £94,071.

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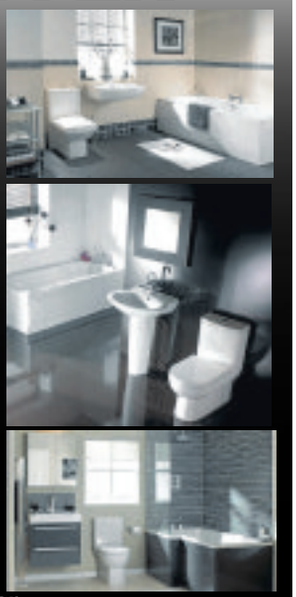

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NEWS

£10,000 boost for cadet bus appeal

WALSALL Sea Cadets has been given a £10,000 boost to help buy a minibus.

The group, founded in 1943, has been forced to hire vehicles after its old minibus caught fire during a return journey from Portsmouth.

Around £5,000 will be spent on the new minibus, while the remaining cash will be invested in computers, printers, tables and chairs for the group based in Marlow Street, Walsall.

The money has been secured from Walsall Housing Group's local neighbourhood fund.

Anne Daker, from the Walsall Sea Cadets Committee, said: "The Walsall Housing Group grant has made a substantial difference. Our 80 local sea cadets can now look forward to benefitting from transport to and from competitions that they work so hard to participate in."

Since it launched in 2009, Walsall Housing Group's local neighbourhood fund has allocated more than half a million pound to community causes.

Students help pupils on a royal tapestry project

Moorcroft Wood Primary pupils and Walsall College fashion students with the tapestries they created togeter

PUPILS from Moorcroft Wood Primary School spent a week with students from Walsall College creating tapestries inspired by the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

Year Five children from the primary school in Glynn Avenue collaborated with teenagers from the fashion department to produce six tapestries.

Thede depict famous scenes from Elizabethan history, including the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

Thirty pupils were taught how to use techniques and processes including dying, silk painting and appliqué.

Headmaster at Moorcroft Wood Primary School Andy Nicholls, said: "The pupils had a fantastic week at Walsall College and really developed their knowledge and skills in design and textiles. They are currently studying textiles as one of their main topics this year."

Fashion lecturer at Walsall College, Sharon Pickup added: "The project has been a great success. The pupils were a pleasure to teach and were very interested in learning more about textiles. Our students also enjoyed passing on their expertise."

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LETTERS

Council right to ensure small minority don't ruin recyling

I'M fed up reading the same old moans when it comes to Walsall's bin collection service. When it comes to the bins being put out and then emptied, I would suggest it is only in an extremely small percentage of cases there is fault on either the part of the homeowner or the binman and that the vast majority of rubbish is collected without incident.

It appears, despite having this system in place for many years, there will always be a small minority who will put the wrong bins out; can't be bothered to take their bins in once emptied; or those who continue to overfill the bin preventing it from being placed on the wagon to be emptied. I, for one, appreciate the efforts of the binmen who venture out in some of the foulest weather to ensure my bins get emptied.

When it comes to recycling Walsall Council has perhaps one of the best recycling plans in place. It saddens and annoys me that it currently appears its effectiveness is being undermined because of the inability of some residents to follow the simplest of instructions.

The council has issued clear, concise leaflets detailing what can go into the bins and what can't go in. Unfortunately it appears many choose to ignore the leaflet and throw it away without reading it!

This is fine with me if the only people it affects are them but, as we see, it now means Walsall Council are facing extra charges to dispose of recyled items contaminated by their failure to act responsibly. This will ultimately impact on the services Walsall Council can provide, may result in cuts, or even lead to the rest of us having to face increased Council Tax charges.

I'm sure I'm not alone in backing the action by Walsall Council to tackle the minority who are causing the problem, rather than them simply ignoring it and making the majority of us have to pay for the failings of this minority.

ROY SHEWARD
Redhouse Lane
Aldridge

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Mystified by decision not to empty green bin

I HAVE read the front page article in the Walsall Chronicle regarding the recycling zero-tolerance crackdown and the comments made by local residents. I have to admit to feeling rather aggrieved myself.

My husband and I are avid recyclers. When our kitchen was re-fitted last year we had a recycle bin installed and all items put in the green bin are washed beforehand and, once a month, the whole bin is washed down.However, our bin was not emptied last week and we really don't know why.

Potholes

We didn't put black sacks into the bin so we don't really understand what the problem is. I have to admit to not being sure anyway why black sacks cannot be put in the bin. Aare they not made of plastic, which is recyclable?

On a personal level, because I live in Walsall I have had to have the front tyres on my car replaced twice in the last 12 months and the tracking realigned due to the potholes in the road; my husband has been refused an essential operation on his hand; and now I cannot get my bin emptied.

However, one thing is certain – we won't be seeing a reduction in our Council Tax!

MRS DEBBIE DEEMING
Belmont Close
Aldridge

'I am here to serve', says PCC

I AM writing to express my thanks to those members of the community who were kind enough to give me their support to be the first Police and Crime Commissioner for West Midlands Police.

I realise that many people did not support me as a Labour candidate or support the election at all, and I sympathise with that position as I believe police and crime commissioners are an expensive and unnecessary change, poorly implemented and appalling publicised.

What I do want to assure our communities is that I am here to serve everyone regardless of how they voted or indeed if they voted. You will be able to see what I'm doing on my website (www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk) and follow me on Twitter (@WestMidsPCC). I will be setting up public surgeries and other ways for the public to raise issues about policing with me directly. Our phone number is 0121 626 6060.

Policing and crime prevention in the West Midlands has suffered more severe government cuts than other areas. I will work hard to ensure that we get a fairer deal in future.

I will approach my responsibilities with humility. I can assure your readers that I will diligently carry out my duties and I will not be in any way reticent about ensuring that the community's voice is heard – clearly and distinctly, locally, regionally and at the national level.

BOB JONES
West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner

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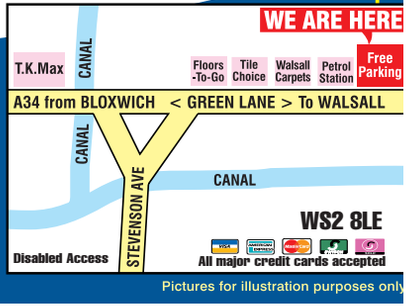

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CLUB NEWS

Auction in aid of hospice

PELSALL 'E' TOWNSWOMEN

A POPPY wreath was laid on behalf of the Guild at Pelsall Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, November 11, by Val Chalker and Margaret Worrall.

While enjoying coffee and a mince pie,there was a short talk by Lutfer Rahmin, a reassurance officer with Walsall Council. Mr Rahmin reminded the ladies of the services provided by the council in relation to bogus callers, unwanted mail and telephone calls, how to report anti-social behaviour and how to access a trade register to find reliable and competent traders.

Anne Blount was the gavel wielding auctioneer for the evening as members bid for an assortment of donated items which were sold to raise money for St Giles Hospice. Trade was brisk and a total sum of £63.50 was achieved.

This year's Christmas lunch is to be held at Fairlawns Hotel & Spa, Little Aston Road, Aldridge, at 1pm on December 6. Entertainment will be provided by Gabriela, the Ukulele Lady.

The December 20 meeting will be the annual Christmas buffet where everyone contributes to the festive table. Money raised by donations in lieu of cards will be presented to the Birmingham Children's Hospital.

MP gives report on Parliamentary affairs

Back; Treasurer Betty Griffin, assistant treasurer Ann Rogers, Councillor Patrick Harley; Front; vice chairman Jean Corns and Chris Kelly MP for Dudley South

DUDLEY SOUTH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

VICE chairman Jean Corns welcomed 42 members and two special guests, MP Mr Chris Kelly and Councillor Patrick Harley to November's open meeting.

Mr Kelly had been speaker on two previous occasions during two-and-a-half-years as an MP, and began by assuring everyone he was not planning to take part in I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here – just yet.

He gave an overview of recent events in Parliament, answered any questions and explained the reasoning behind the new Police and Crime Commissioners.

In December members will be entertained by the Haven Singers and by artist Geoff Tristram in January.

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month.Call 01902 372984.

65th birthday celebrated

WEST BROM CENTRAL TOWNSWOMEN

THE November meeting saw a moving and fascinating talk by Caroline Nash-Smith and Janet Carleton.

It was entitled "Life's Treasures" – a company founded by Caroline and her daughter Anita to support ethnically based projects throughout the world. Members were impressed by the quality of the goods on offer and were delighted to contribute by buying items. The chairman thanked the speakers for their excellent presentation.

On November 5, members celebrated the West Bromwich Guild's 65th birthday with lunch at Sandwell Golf Club. The Christmas afternoon tea takes place on December 10 at 2pm in Moose Hall, Woodward Street.

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MEMORY LANE

Pelsall Hall Sanatorium was for people recovering from TB. Here patients and staff are pictured in the grounds

The Charles family pictured at the rear of Pelsall Hall, the family home fron 1785 to 1917

The Charles family enjoyed playing croquet on the lawn at Pelsall Hall, their home for generations

A view of Pelsall Hall from the rear garden

Village's oldest home has a healthy history

by Will Ackermann

THE rich history of the oldest building in Pelsall is celebrated with the launch of a new book by local historian Annita Bates.

The writer recently led a tour of Pelsall Hall Residential Home, on Paradise Lane, joined by Walsall Mayor Dennis Anson and around 30 other guests, as she walked and talked through the building's history.

The hall was first built as a manor house in 1616 and documents show that in 1622 it belonged to a Mr Dickenson of Pelsall and a Mr Sparrey of Kings Norton.

For six years it was then owned by a George Cradock who had been given it in 1637 by his mother, Elizabeth Cradock of Caverswall Castle. When Mr Cradock died of smallpox his wife Dorothy inherited the property. Dorothy Cradock married and her husband, Sir Orlando Bridgeman, took part ownership of the manor.

The couple also owned extensive areas of land around Pelsall, including the common lands.

In 1752 the Hussey Family of Little Wyrley moved into the property, before selling it in 1785 to Issac Charles. It remained in the Charles family for generations, right up until 1917, when it was sold to Walsall Health Authority.

Sanatorium

The Charles family held many fundraising events at the hall, including a tea party in 1877 where there was a marquee, a brass band, dancing, songs and speeches with tea.

Before the First World War plans had been made to open a sanatorium in Walsall for sufferers of tuberculosis, and in 1917 Pelsall Hall was bought from the Charles family and converted into such a facility. It officially opened on October 23, 1918, just a few weeks after the end of the war.

The sanatorium had 37 beds – 17 for men, 14 for women, and six for children. Men and women were housed in open-walled blocks situated in the grounds of the hall, while the children's wards were within the main house.

The facilities were improved in 1924 when the old hall was converted into a dining and recreational area with a snooker table and a wireless.

By the mid-1930s patients were being cared for at a purpose-built hospital in Goscote. Patient numbers at Pelsall fell.

As a result, the sanatorium closed in 1950 and the hall became Walsall Nurse Training School.

It was not until 1988 that it became a care home for the elderly, run by Greensleeves Homes Trust, before undergoing a £3.5m refit in 2008.

Ms Bates' book, 'The Charles Family and Pelsall Hall', from which the photographs on this page are taken, is on sale in the Walsall branch of Waterstones and in Balloons, on High Street, Pelsall, from the beginning of December.

John Smith Charles and his wife Annie Snowdin Charles moved into Pelsall Hall in 1871

Pelsall Hall Sanatorium, which closed to patients in 1950

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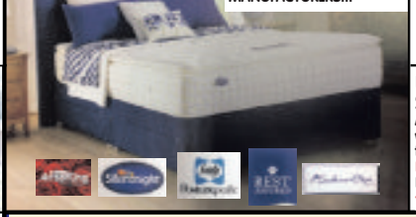

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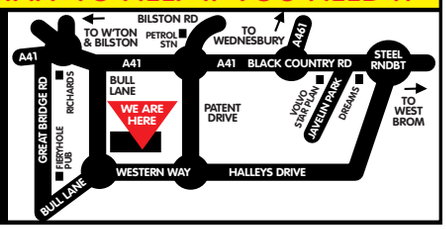

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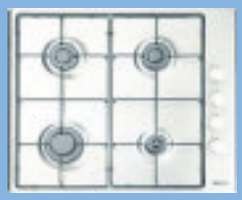

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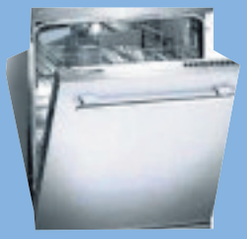

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Weekends will be packed with seasonal fun including an enchanting pantomime production of Aladdin, complete with puppets, original songs and plenty of laughs.

Elsewhere, children will have the chance to meet Father Christmas in his grotto and receive a free small gift.

You can also visit the Cadbury Café and buy festive fare from the Yuletide Menu, as well as limited edition handmade seasonal chocolates from the World's Biggest Cadbury Shop.

In addition to these seasonal activities you will also have the chance to journey through Cadbury World's 14 amazing zones.

Seasonal fun with the production of the pantomime Aladdin

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Cadbury World's 14 amazing zones will put a smile on even the grumpiest Scrooge's face!

The attraction's family ticket allows two adults and two children to experience the celebration weekends' fabulous festivities, guaranteed to leave you wishing it could be Christmas every day.

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REVIEWS

Grease is still the word 40 years since its debut

Grease, Wolverhampton Grand

ROCK 'n' roll musical Grease is 40 years old but still has considerable pulling power, enough to fill the Grand on a wet Monday night in November.

Folks came primed for a good time, ready to hand jive along to the 1950s style numbers and laugh at the slightly sleazy juvenile delinquent humour (perhaps the parents of the younger children haven't listened too closely to the lyrics of Greased Lightning).

Whilst none of the leads were stand-out singers, the ensemble numbers were electrifying, particularly We Go Together and Born To Hand Jive with hot choreography from Arlene Phillips. Danny Bayne played the strutting Zuko for laughs and Carina Gillespie was suitably demure as Sandy, until she reinvented herself as a vamp in a figure-hugging black catsuit for You're The One That I Want.

It continues at the Grand to Saturday.

Leon Burakowski

Get ready girls for a Dolly good night out

9 To 5 The Musical, Regent Theatre, Stoke

ON the way to Birmingham for the festive season, Dolly Parton's big and brash Broadway musical is a great night out for the girls.

A stage remake of the movie that gave country star Dolly her big break in Hollywood, 9 To 5 is a rib-tickling return to the 1970s when the fashions were shocking and the sexist attitudes of many men would have disgraced a neanderthal.

Three secretaries join forces to get revenge on their bullying, lecherous boss Franklyn J Hart, played with villainous relish by Ben Richards, in this naughty but nice romp about sexual and office politics.

Dolly herself oversees the show, her recorded narration projected onto a clockface above the stage, and joins in with the singing of the title song which got the mostly female audience at Hanley dancing in the aisles.

The songs are by Dolly and pretty good they are too, especially Backwoods Barbie, a witty defence of trailer park glamour sung by her alter-ego in the show, Texan gal Doralee. Amy Lennox was excellent as the not-so-dumb blonde, her feisty character and singing recalling the young Dolly herself.

Dolly's mixture – from left Jackie Clune as Violet Newstead, Amy Lennox as Doralee Rhodes and Natalie Casey as Judy Bernly in 9 To 5 The Musical

Solid support came from deep-toned Jackie Clune as the office matriarch Violet and Gemma Maclean, standing in for the ill Natalie Casey, was excellent as put-upon office newcomer Judy.

But the biggest laughs were achieved by Bonnie Langford as Roz who almost ties herself in knots in her desperate bid to seduce the boss. She also gave the best vocal performances with Heart To Hart and 5 To 9. However, everyone was at some point upstaged by the gurning antics of Lori Haley Fox as the elderly office drunk.

Subtle it isn't but neither were the 1970s and 9 To 5 should provide an enjoyable night out for those who enjoyed the stage versions of Mamma Mia or Legally Blonde.

Dolly Parton's 9 To 5 The Musical will be staged at the New Alexandra Theatre from December 17 to January 5.

Leon Burakowski

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REVIEWS

Few words but all the right moves

Some Like It Hip Hop, Wolverhampton Grand

FUNKY and exciting, dance group ZooNation's mix of B-boying, rap, street and break dancing appeals to a younger audience but there is plenty for all to enjoy.

Set in a fictional city ruled over by a tyrant, Governor Okeke (Duwane Taylor), where women are subdued and segregated, this is a tale of liberation through knowledge and love that leads to the tyrant realising the error of his ways. Despite the dystopian setting, there is a lot of comedy and romance.

The cast were very impressive and though the dialogue was limited, they were more than able to communicate through their actions.

The quality and athleticism of the dance really stood out as dancers back flipped and vaulted across the stage.

In particular Ross Sands and Robert Anker both put in superb performances performing all manner of gravity defying acrobatics.

Infiltrate

The main roles of Jo-Jo Jameson (Sarah Richards) and David Davidson (Minica Besson), the cross-dressing women who infiltrate the world of men, represent a role reversal of the movie Some Like it Hot, which this production draws upon.

Both female performers put in a superb performance. In the main male role Denny Harwood was also noteworthy.

Even though this is predominantly about dance, it wouldn't be anything without its original musical from DJ Walde, supported by the amazing singers Sheree Dubois, Rohan Pinnock-Hamilton, Sherona Knight, Elliotte Williams-N'Dure and Ross Green. They all lend their amazing talents to the mix of soul and hip hop that is the backbone of this play.

The audience were also treated to a performance of street dance by 22 Wolverhampton school children, who had been trained by ZooNation's Teneisha Bonner, to dance along to Maroon 5's, Move Like Jagger. The group from 12 schools had the audience out of their seats and cheering along.

Tom Mason

Correct ingredients yet Cinders failed to rise to the occasion

Cinderella, Birmingham Hippodrome

EVERYTHING was there, the usual high standard of the Birmingham Royal Ballet, superb music and delightful costumes but somehow at the Hippodrome performance of Cinderella I didn't have a ball.

I am sure the ballet purists loved it but there just seemed to be that little bit of magic missing. Billed as a Christmas treat and spoken off in similar terms as the wonderful Nutcracker, it just did not seem to be in the same league.

The familiar story was well told and the dancing highlights were many – especially from the Dancing Master (Mathias Dingman) who excelled.

The dainty Cinderella (Elisha Willis) and her Prince (Iain Mackay) could almost not be faulted, although he did have a rather awkward moment with one of the lifts.

Delight

The two who stole the show were stepsisters Skinny (Samara Downs) and Dumpy (Carol-Anne Millar) who managed to dance brilliantly – even in a fat suit. Their continual spats were a delight to watch.

Cinderella will be at Birmingham Hippodrome until December 9.

Sue Attwater

Elisha Willis as Cinderella and Iain Mackay as the Prince
Picture by Bill Cooper

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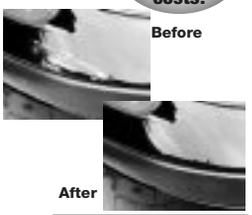

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Turner's talent is not heaven sent

Frank Turner, Wolverhampton Civic Hall

FROM the moment a silhouetted Frank Turner began his opening track, I Am Disappeared, the Civic Hall crowd was singing along and continued to the end of the two-hour gig.

The punk-folk troubadour writes heartfelt anthems which lift your spirits and his devoted fans lapped up everything he played on Friday.

A large proportion of the set was taken from his 2011 album England Keep My Bones. The Civic Hall reverberated to the sound of the sell-out crowd hollering the refrain "There never was no God" in Turner's celebration of living in the here and now, Glory Hallelujah.

Turner performed a number of songs from his earlier albums without his backing band, The Sleeping Souls, and they were a real treat to hear live.

David Briggs

Bleak American story makes heart-pounding musical

American Idiot, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

AMERICA'S pop-punk group Green Day's best known hits have been bought to the stage and to life at Birmingham in a raucous performance of the award-winning American Idiot, co-written by the band's front man Billie Joe Armstrong and writer Michael Mayer.

Fans of the three piece will love this adaptation of some of their later repertoire bought to life in a tale of three young men torn apart by the modern world.

Set in a bleak American suburbia this tale of friends separated by life's twist and turns, is at times amusing, at times emotional and certainly a bit risqué.

The musical cast in this show really make it, and considering the general lack of dialogue they manage to portray the story brilliantly from one song to the next.

Alex Nee (Johnny) who plays the leading role, looks and sounds like the band's own singer, giving an awesome performance.

His unique representation of a drug addled junkie was very believable, helped along by the drug trip-like action and scenery that revolve around the cast.

Alongside him Thomas Hettrick (Timmy) who plays an injured soldier and Casey O'Farrel (Will) a young father, both bring something to the tale and help the story of friendship develop.

Special mention must also be given to the band that sounded just like their real-life counter-parts and provided a wonderful backing to the actor's performance.

This show definitely has a lot going for it and at times felt like a full-on rock show that really got the heart pounding.

It's on at the Alex until Saturday.

Tom Mason

A scene from Green Day's raucous American Idiot musical

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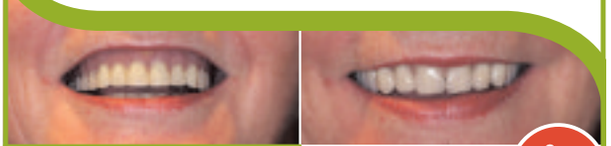

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NEWS

Movie stars – Ben Wilby with his Nativity 2 co-stars, including David Tennant

The child actor is pictured relaxing at his home in Cannock

A star is born as Nativity actor Ben chases dream

by Lisa Wright

THE FLOOR is littered with Lego and cuddly toys are scattered on his bed – so just like any ordinary 10-year-old's bedroom, then?

However fame and fortune has come early age to Cannock youngster Ben Wilby, who stars in Christmas comedy movie Nativity 2: Danger in the Manger.

The St Mary's RC Primary School pupil shot to fame after starring as Bob in the hit 2009 comedy Nativity! and reprised the role for the sequel – starring alongside former Doctor Who actor David Tennant and Gavin and Stacey actress Joanna Page.

The hallway of Ben's Cannock home is decorated with pictures of the young star alongside the likes of Barbara Windsor, Jimmy Carr and Jedward. He has appeared on ITV show This Morning and in several television adverts.

Ben started dancing at the age of four after joining Walsall Academy of Dance and has won hundreds of trophies. He now attends ballet and tap classes three times a week in Willenhall.

In the movie, Ben plays a pupil at St Bernadette's who goes on a road trip to the national 'Song for Christmas' competition.

He said: "Bob is a cheeky chappy. He does some rapping in this film."

Ben was on the red carpet for the premiere in London's Leicester Square, which he said was 'amazing'.

"I had a personal bodyguard. I was signing lots of autographs and doing interviews. It was a privilege to do it," he said.

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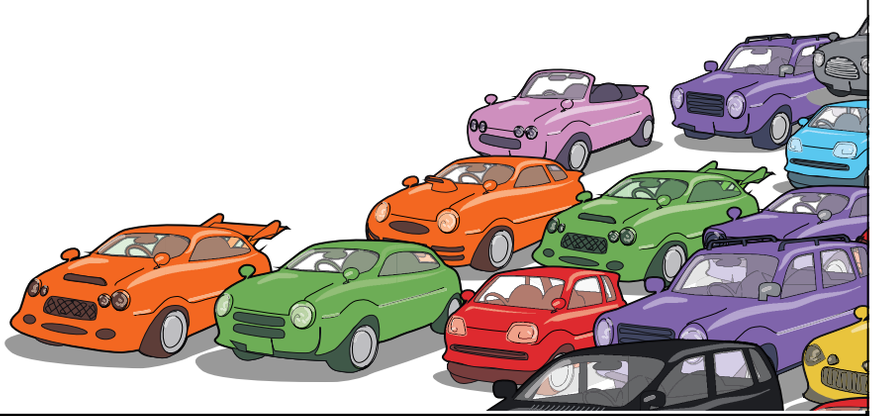

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Christmas in Walsall

In the market for a festive bargain

WILLENHALL is a small town which has seen big changes in the last couple of years – many of them for the better.

The structure of the town is changing, with supermarket Morrisons moving in, and although local businesses have been through a tough time they are still trading, with established names being joined by new ones.

In the town you will find Kelvin Bland and Sons which has served the local community with fruit and vegetables for more than 20 years.

There are a number of butchers shops in the town, one of them being Conway Butchers which opened in Willenhall in 1920, already having shops in Wolverhampton.

Conway sold the shops in Wolverhampton and had three shops in Willenhall, but there is now just one left by the clock in the town and which is now owned by Tony Butler, a local man who worked for Mr Conway from 1962.

He said the people of Willenhall like good quality meat "at Willenhall prices", and his business sells traditional meats, homemade sausages and cut bacon which is not packed but home cured on the premises.

Tony says that when you taste the difference you will be back for more.

Also trading in the town is Butlers Butchers which has been established for 100 years, which is now in the capable hands of Mathew Butler, the third generation to take over and behind the refurbishment just two years ago.

Both the businesses serve traditional and locally sourced meats and offer a friendly atmosphere welcoming customers both old and new.

New to the town and having just celebrated its first anniversary is Imperial Cakes, supplying cakes for every occasion – as well as courses to suit everyone from absolute beginners to those who want to take their creative skills to the highest level.

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Christmas in Walsall

Getting a positive result for everyone

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WITH Christmas approaching the family team at Enoch Evans LLP knows only too well how stressful the festive period can be, particularly for those sharing the care of their children with a former partner.

The Walsall firm said that a recent Court of Appeal case of Re W highlighted the duty on parents to actively promote contact between their children and the other parent.

It can take children some time to adapt to their parents separating and they may say that they do not wish to see a parent.

This could be because they are upset, but the long term advantage of having a relationship with the other parent should still be encouraged.

Enoch Evans LLP offers support, advice and assistance to parents seeking to obtain or re-establish a set pattern of contact with their child.

At your first meeting a member of the firm's friendly family team will discuss your circumstances with you, and the options available to you.

The Enoch Evans team will provide you with advice that is relevant to your personal circumstances and also provide a clear breakdown of the fees payable for the work required so that you are in control of your legal costs.

If you have any questions about the contact with your children or just to understand your options, then please do not hesitate to contact a member of the family team (Emma, Laura, Daniel or Sarah) on 01922 720333 for more information.

Alternatively you can contact Enoch Evans online. Visit the website www.enoch-evans.co.uk

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Christmas in Walsall

With Italian markets, late night shopping, a free daytime party, a pop-up craft shop and reindeer - it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Walsall.

The council's town centre management team has been working with traders to come up with a festive feast of events and entertainment.

Two Italian markets will run in Park Street from 13-15 December and 20-22 December with a pop-up craft shop opening its doors in the Saddlers Centre from 10-16 December.

Walsall Music Festival is running on Saturday 1 December with a free daytime party between 11 am and 5pm offering music, street entertainment, and art and craft activities for younger visitors.

Thursday late night shopping will see most stores open until 7pm or 8pm from Thursday 29 November and there will be a run of events in the Old Square Shopping Centre.

On Saturday 8 December Dr Zoolittle's mini farm will delight the crowds, with reindeers on Saturday 15 December and the chance to build a reindeer feature on Saturday 22 December.

And more than 1,300 free parking spaces be made available to shoppers in the Town Centre in the build-up to Festive season.

Free parking will be provided in all Council operated off-street car parks on the weekends of 8 and 9, 15 and 16 and 22 and 23 December, in addition to the usual free parking on Christmas and New Year bank holidays.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, Walsall Council Coalition portfolio holder for regeneration, said: "We have been working with traders to offer a range of Christmas events in Walsall to appeal to all.

"Younger visitors will love the mini farm and reindeer while shoppers who want to enjoy something more traditional will find the Italian markets are a joy.

"The pop-up craft shop will also continue the traditional theme while a livelier atmosphere is promised at the free daytime party as part of Walsall Music Festival.

"Walsall has a lot to offer with a range of shops offering plenty of gift ideas to suit all budgets and we look forward to plenty of hustle and bustle this festive season."

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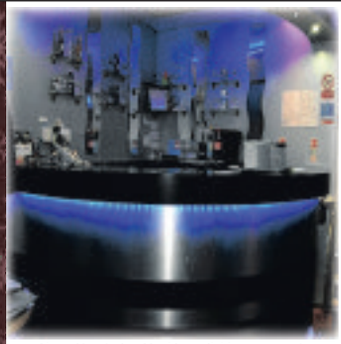

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Christmas in Walsall

Hot night out

CHILLI Peppers Indian restaurant and takeaway has been serving up fine food in the Old Gate Inn pub in Lichfield Road, New Invention, Willenhall, since 2001.

Now the new owners and staff would like to welcome customers old and new to their award-winning restaurant, which specialises in Balti, seafood, traditional and vegetarian cuisine.

With more than 30 speciality dishes to choose from, Chilli Peppers is sure there will be something to excite everyones' taste buds, and the chef has added a further 14 dishes which he personally recommends – and which he is confident you will enjoy.

The menu offers more than 100 new and contemporary starters, most of which are unique to the restaurant, and which Chilli Peppers says cannot be found anywhere else in the Wolverhampton area.

With a great atmosphere and outstanding service, a warm welcome awaits all customers, whether they are regulars or have decided to give the restaurant a try for the first time.

Although the restaurant is not licensed to sell alcohol, customers are more than welcome to bring their own. Soft drinks are always available and glasses are provided at no extra charge.

Chilli Peppers Indian restaurant has more than 100 new and unique starters

The restaurant also provides a full takeaway service, and will deliver free to your door within a three mile radius – or you can call in and collect your meal and receive a 10 per cent discount on your order.

You can ring through your order on 01922 404444 or find the restaurant on 'Just Eat'.

Check out the full menu at www.chillipeppersrestaurant.co.uk or follow the restaurant on Facebook.

Chilli Peppers is open seven days a week, including bank holidays, with ample free parking available at the rear of the restaurant.

Advanced bookings are highly recommended, and the restaurant is now taking bookings for Christmas.

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What's On! Walsall

Winter chills with ghost story readings

THE Light House cinema and arts centre in Wolverhampton is hosting an evening of Victorian classic ghost stories that is sure to chill listeners.

Spirits of Christmas will take place on Thursday, December 6, from 8:30pm. There will be dramatic readings by actors of spooky stories. There will also be books on sale, festive refreshments and a raffle. Tickets cost £8. The event is suitable for those aged aged 12 and over. Book on 01902 716055.

Orchestra and carols in concert

A CHRISTMAS concert will be held at Walsall's Forest Arts Centre on Saturday.

Walsall Symphony Orchestra will perform orchestral music, songs and carols in the concert at the Leamore venue.

The event will also include performances by The Accidentals and Walsall's Gilbert & Sullivan Society.

It starts at 7pm and tickets cost £5. Call 0845 111 2898 to book.

Rat Pack sounds

SMOOTH music from the 1960s will be belting out from Walsall's Banks's Stadium early next year.

Songs from the likes of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin will be part of the Rat Pack tribute show. It takes place on February 2 from 7pm and includes a three course meal.

Tickets are £30 and for details call (01922) 651416.

Join Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad on the riverbank

BIRMINGHAM Rep heads to the riverbank this Christmas for a production of Alan Bennett's adaptation of The Wind In The Willows.

Kenneth Grahame's charming tale of Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad is brought to the stage at the Crescent Theatre.

Birmingham Rep is using the Sheepcote Street venue, just off Broad Street, as one of its venues during the work to incorporate the repertory theatre into the city's new library complex.

This new production by Gwenda Hughes, who has directed 25 Birmingham Rep shows, is aimed at families and is described as a traditional production true to The Wind In The Willows people have known and loved since childhood.

A cast of 16 actor-musicians will bring a host of wonderful characters to life. Playing Toad is Matthew Douglas, a graduate of the University Of Birmingham, who recently starred in The Rep's Travesties and The Importance Of Being Earnest.

Wind In The Willows opened last night (Wednesday) and continues until January 19.

Tickets range from £9 to £28, see www.birmingham-rep.co.uk or call the box office on 0121 236 4455.

Classic 80s rock double

IT will be a dream double bill for fans of 1980s rock at Birmingham's O2 Academy when James bring their tour The Gathering Sound to the city with special guests Echo And The Bunnymen.

The gig on April 25 is the penultimate of a ten-date UK tour, which ends with a big Arena show in James' home city of Manchester.

Singer

Lead singer Tim Booth said: "We will be re-working old songs and revealing some new steps – expect the unexpected and prepare yourself for more passion that Fifty Shades of Grey."

James, whose hits include Come Home and the classic Sit Down, are releasing a boxed set including all 12 of their studio albums.

Win tickets to the ultimate pop party

Up-and-coming pop group Lawson, who recently released their debut album Chapman Square, join JLS and many others at the Free Radio Live concert at the LG Arena on December 15

ONE of Birmingham's biggest music events is coming to the LG Arena and Westfield Merry Hill is giving Chronicle readers a chance to win tickets to the big Christmas pop party!

Birmingham-based station Free Radio is teaming up with Westfield Merry Hill for Midlands Free Radio Live – a night of chart-topping entertainment with some of the biggest names in pop.

Free Radio Live will kick off the Christmas party season on December 15 and five lucky readers will receive a family ticket for four people, worth £120, giving access to the event. Merry Hill will itself get the festivities into full swing when it opens until midnight on weekdays from December 17.

Line-up

The Midlands' biggest party will feature JLS, fellow X-Factor stars Leona Lewis, Amelia Lily and most recent victors Little Mix. McFly and popular pop rockers Scouting For Girls will also form part of the line-up, alongside Labrinth and Stooshe.

Also joining the galaxy of stars will bel up-and-coming band Lawson, who are no stranger to the Midlands having recently switched on Merry Hill's Christmas lights.

For your chance to see all these top performers in one place, simply answer the following question: Which pop group switched on the Christmas lights at Westfield Merry Hill this year?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Live Competition, Chronicle Series, Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES.

Usual rules apply and the editor's decision is final.

Classic rock gig on the big screen

IN celebration of what would have been rock star Jimi Hendrix's 70th birthday, Showcase Cinema in Bentley Mill Way, Walsall, is screening his legendary 1969 Woodstock concert on the big screen and in surround sound.

The performance stands as one of the finest in rock music history and includes Voodoo Child (Slight Return), Fire, Purple Haze as well as Hendrix's dramatic interpretation of the Star Spangled Banner.

It is being screened tonight (Thursday) at 7.30pm.

Poems and wine at museum event

RESIDENTS are invited to get into the Christmas spirit with an evening of festive poetry, drama and songs at Walsall Leather Museum on December 7.

Christmas Crackers is being performed at the museum by Lichfield Theatre Group at 7pm. There will be a glass of wine and a discount in the museum shop.

Tickets cost £16 including a buffet. To book a place, call (01922) 721153.

Country highway

COUNTRY music band Knoxville Highway will be performing in Bloxwich on Saturday night.

The group will be at Bookmark Bloxwich, in Elmore Row, with doors opening at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

Tickets cost £5 and can be booked in advance by calling the library on (01922) 655900.

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Organised by Omega Holidays, ABTA V4782. Subject to availability. Please note: Omega Holidays cannot be held responsible for the non-appearance of any celebrity and no refunds will be given in this event.

SATURDAY'S TV 1.12.12

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson: Bad 25
BBC2, 9.45pm

It's hard to believe that it's over three years ago already that the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, passed away. It's even harder to believe that it's a quarter of a century since he released his seminal album, Bad, which spawned five consecutive US number one singles. As a celebration of this latter milestone, Spike Lee directs this insightful documentary which examines the album and its impact. He speaks to those involved in the creation of the album, as well as celebrity fans including Martin Scorsese, Walter Yetnikoff and Kanye West.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Baking Made Easy. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Weather. **5.30** A Question of Sport.

6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Ulrika Jonsson, Rowland Rivron, David Hamilton, Tony Blackburn, Austin Healey, Scott Quinnell, Tim Vine and Karen Taylor take part in the unorthodox general knowledge quiz.

6.50 Strictly Come Dancing. The twinkle-toed celebrities take another step closer to lifting the glitterball trophy. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present, with Len Goodman and his panel passing comment. The results are tomorrow at 7.20pm.

8.00 Merlin. The warlock tries to break Morgana's hold over the Queen.

8.45 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. John Partridge reveals the all-important winning numbers.

8.55 Casualty. A mother with Down's syndrome is accused of poor parenting, Dylan's suspicions about Amanda deepen and Tom is confronted by an unwelcome face from the past.

9.45 Live at the Apollo. With Kevin Bridges, Phill Jupitus and Sara Pascoe.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Including Manchester City v Everton; National Lottery Update.

12.05 The Football League Show.

12.45 Film: Westworld. (1973)

2.10 Weatherview. **2.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **12.00** Coast. (R) **12.05** Animal Park. (R) **1.05 Film:** The Gay Divorcee. (1934) Musical comedy, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. **2.45 Film:** Houseguest. (1995) Comedy, starring Sinbad and Phil Hartman. **4.30** Live Snooker: UK Championship. The opening day of the ranking tournament at the Barbican Centre in York. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.30 Great British Food Revival. Gary Rhodes makes the medieval dish pottage as he champions runner and broad beans, while Allegra McEvedy shows there is more to oats than porridge. Last in the series.

7.30 Dad's Army. A secret weapon goes haywire and threatens Walmington-on-Sea, so Mainwaring and his platoon speed to the rescue in Corporal Jones's van. (R)

8.00 Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild. David Attenborough reflects on environmental changes during his film-making career and the revolution in attitudes towards nature. Last in the series. (R)

9.00 QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended version of the quiz with a difference, featuring Julian Clary, Ross Noble, Bill Bailey and Alan Davies answering question on the theme of jumpers.

9.45 Michael Jackson: Bad 25. Spike Lee's documentary assessing and celebrating Michael Jackson's 1987 album Bad, featuring interviews with Martin Scorsese, Kanye West and Sheryl Crow.

12.00 Snooker: UK Championship.

12.50 Snooker Extra. **2.50** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** The Hive. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** The Avengers. **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Shake It Up. **9.00** My Phone Genie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20 Film:** Columbo: Dagger of the Mind. (1972) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **2.30** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **3.30** The Unforgettable Hattie Jacques. (R) **4.00** Jonathan & Charlotte. (R) **5.00** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.15** ITV News; Weather. **5.30** The Golden Rules of TV.

6.00 New You've Been Framed! A fresh selection of comical clips.

6.30 Take Me Out. A Cornwall coach driver, a rock musician from Lancashire, a professional rugby player from Cardiff and a Leicester engineer take part. Paddy McGuinness hosts. Last in the series.

8.00 The X Factor. The acts battle to win places in the final.

9.30 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present the final. Last in the series.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 FA Cup Highlights. Action from the second-round matches.

11.45 Film: Serenity. (2005) Sci-fi adventure.

1.45 The Store. ITV News Headlines. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Beach Volleyball. (R) **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Frasier. (R) **9.25** T4: Frasier. (R) **10.00** T4: Made in Chelsea. **11.05** T4: Suburgatory. **11.40** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.15** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.20** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** The Simpsons. (R) **4.20** Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland. **4.55** Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland. **5.25** Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland. **5.55** Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland.

6.25 Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland. Former rugby union player Shane Byrne hosts the final dinner party.

6.55 Channel 4 News.

7.25 4thought.tv.

7.30 Heston's Fantastical Food. Heston Blumenthal opens a Willy Wonka-inspired sweet shop, recreating some of the nation's favourite confectionery on a massive scale. (R)

8.30 Stephen Fry: Gadget Man. Technology that makes shopping and cooking easier and more entertaining. (R)

9.00 Film: Star Trek. (2009) The first mission of the starship Enterprise leads the crew into a battle against a vengeful Romulan captain from the future. Adventure, starring Chris Pine.

11.25 Film: The X Files: I Want to Believe. (2008) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson.

1.25 Film: Steel Magnolias. (1989) **3.25** Hollyoaks. **5.30** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.00** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.55** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.55 Film:** Superman. (1978) Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve. **3.35 Film:** The Christmas Gift. (1986) Drama, starring John Denver. **5.20 Film:** Our First Christmas. (2008) Family drama, starring Julie Warner.

7.10 Film: Catwoman. (2004) A murdered graphic designer returns to life as a wily avenger with the strength and agility of a cat. Superhero adventure, starring Halle Berry, Sharon Stone and Benjamin Bratt.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Live International Boxing. Tyson Fury v Kevin Johnson. Coverage of the heavyweight bout staged at the Odyssey Arena in Belfast, where both men will hope a victory leads to a world title shot.

11.00 BAMMA 11: Alex Reid Returns. Alex Reid v Sam Boo and Jack Marshman v Xavier Foupa-Pokam. Action from the mixed martial arts event staged at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

12.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **4.05** Michaela's Wild Challenge. Jumping off the Auckland Sky Tower. (R) **4.25** Great Artists. The life and legacy of Albrecht Durer. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. Historical spotlight on scenic counties in the UK. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. Myrtle the turtle receives help in learning to count. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. Kemi goes rollerskating. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. Duncan struggles because of snow. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 International Rugby Union **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **9.45 Film:** Pretty Woman (1990) **11.40** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 Metalworks! – The Blacksmith's Tale **8.00** Horizon: Why Can't We Predict Earthquakes? **9.00** The Killing III **11.00** More Old Jews Telling Jokes **11.30** Top of the Pops: 1977

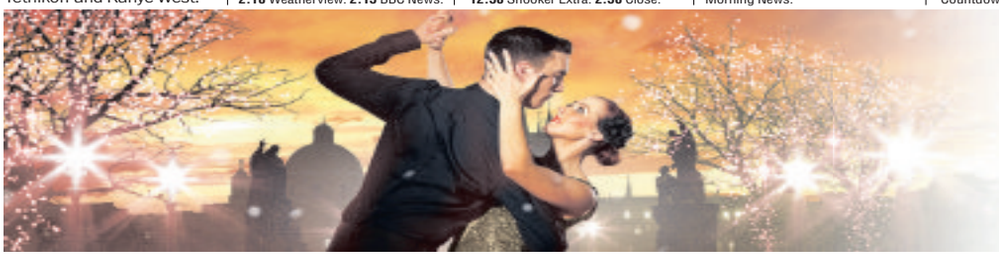
ITV2
4.15 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.45 Film:** Garfield (2004) **7.25 Film:** Batteries Not Included (1987) **9.30** The Xtra Factor **10.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.30** Take Me Out – The Gossip

ITV3
3.10 Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.05** Brides in the Bath

ITV4
12.30 Live Darts. The PDC Players Championship Finals. **5.15** England's Greatest Tournament Games **6.10** Cheers. Coach goes on a date. **6.45** Live Darts. The PDC Players Championship Finals. **11.30** Hamish & Andy's Euro Gap Year

E4
5.30 How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Rules of Engagement **9.00** Derren Brown: The Gameshow **10.05 Film:** Scary Movie (2000) **11.55** The Big Bang Theory

Film4
3.45 True Grit (1969) **6.20** The Hunt for Red October (1990) **9.00** Crash (2004) Oscar-winning drama, starring Matt Dillon and Sandra Bullock. **11.15** The Omen (2006)



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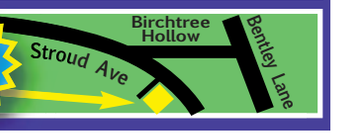

What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 2.12.12

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Katherine Jenkins

Steppin' Out with Katherine Jenkins
ITV1, 9pm
We're told this special one-off featuring the Welsh mezzo-soprano is going to be a showcase of 'spectacular song and dance routines in an evening of glitz and glamour.' Apparently, its producers are stopping at nothing to recreate the old-style, 1940s Hollywood look, with a series of guests they hope will be able to emulate the era. Among those taking part are award-winning quartet Il Divo, girl band Stooshe, Britain's Got Talent finalists Only Boys Aloud and former Strictly Come Dancing champion Tom Chambers.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets John Barrowman. **11.00** Sunday Politics; Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** Countryfile. (R) **1.00** Bargain Hunt. **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Call the Midwife. (R) **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **5.50** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.20 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore the South Downs, discovering how the countryside inspired author Jane Austen and naturalist Gilbert White.

7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Another couple perform their last dance, and JLS sing.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The experts visit Aberystwyth in west Wales, where finds include a painting that may be by an important Welsh artist, a kimono with a long history and items of Poole Pottery.

9.00 The Secret of Crickley Hall. Eve receives information about her missing son. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Highlights of Norwich City v Sunderland.

11.15 The Graham Norton Show. With Jake Gyllenhaal, Joan Rivers, Jeremy Clarkson and James May. (R)

12.00 The Sky at Night. **12.20 Film:** The Two Mr Kissels. (2008) **1.45** Weatherview. **1.50** Sign Zone: Film 2012. (R) **2.20** Holby City. (R) **3.20** Operation Iceberg. (R) **4.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off Masterclass. (R) **12.30** International Rugby Union. **1.30** Live Snooker: UK Championship. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.30 Fawlty Towers. The death of a guest leads to all manner of mayhem as Basil tries to conceal the corpse from the hotel's other occupants. Guest starring Geoffrey Palmer. (R)

7.00 Best of Top Gear. Further highlights from the show's 17th and 18th series, in which Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May got up to more motoring mischief. (R)

8.00 Return to Forgotten Britain. Part two of two. Fergal Keane revisits communities in Glasgow and Leeds, where he finds out how the areas and their residents have fared in the past 12 years.

9.00 Dragons' Den. Ideas and innovations include frozen cocktails, a safety product for babies, a device to stop tights falling down and an inflatable Christmas tree. Last in the series.

10.00 Harry & Paul. Highlights from the third series. Last in the series.

10.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With host Alex Horne and guests Louis Smith and Paloma Faith. (R)

11.00 I've Never Seen Star Wars. Jo Brand invites Stephen Fry to sample new cultural experiences. (R)

11.30 Snooker: UK Championship. First-round highlights on day two in York.

12.20 Snooker Extra. **2.20** BBC News. **4.00** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Engie Benjy. **6.10** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.25** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.00** Big Time Rush. **8.30** Good Luck Charlie. **9.00** Good Luck Charlie. **9.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **10.20 Film:** Carry On Cruising. (1962) **12.00** ITV News; Weather. **12.05** Live FA Cup Football. **3.00** Farewell Jack. (R) **3.30** The X Factor. (R) **5.00** The Nation's Favourite Number 1 Single. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Coronation Street. Hour-long episode. Tommy struggles to cope with Tina's pregnancy.

8.00 The X Factor Results. The acts find out who has made it through to the final.

9.00 Steppin' Out with Katherine Jenkins. A cabaret show featuring the classical singer and star guests, including the Overtones and Only Boys Aloud. Actor Mark Benton takes on the role of master of ceremonies.

10.15 ITV News; Weather.

10.30 FA Cup Highlights. Action from the second-round matches.

11.30 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 10th round of fixtures.

12.25 Grimefighters. (R) **12.55** The Store; ITV News Headlines. **2.55** Motorsport UK. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Sailing: America's Cup Discovered. (R) **7.35** Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc. **8.05** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **2.05** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **2.35** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **3.05** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **3.35** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **4.10** Deal or No Deal. **5.10 Film:** Miracle on 34th Street. (1994)

7.20 Channel 4 News.

7.50 4thought.tv.

7.55 The Political Slot.

8.00 Alien Investigations. Documentary examining alleged alien sightings from the past five years, carrying out a thorough analysis of the body of a supposed extraterrestrial infant found in Mexico.

9.00 Homeland. Brody makes an important phone call, Saul teams up with Virgil and Max to dig out information on one of their own, and Carrie prepares for a vital breakfast meeting.

10.00 Peep Show. Mark's book Business Secrets of the Pharaohs is accepted by a publisher.

10.30 British Comedy Awards Nominations Show 2012. A look ahead to this year's ceremony.

11.35 Rude Tube: Rude Zoo. A selection of the internet's funniest animal clips. (R)

12.30 Fishing for Trouble. **1.00** American Football Live. **4.45** Grudge Match. (R) **4.55** Countdown. (R) **5.40** Make Do & Mend. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Peppa Pig. (R) **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Olive the Ostrich. **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Animal Antics. (R) **7.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Mio Mao. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Castle Farm. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.10** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **11.25** The Singing Friar. **11.55** Rolf's Animal Clinic. (R) **12.55 Film:** Road to Christmas. (2006) **2.40 Film:** Jack Frost. (1998) **4.35** 5 News Weekend. **4.40 Film:** Rush Hour 2. (2001)

6.30 Film: Superman II. (1980) The Man of Steel returns to take on a trio of super-powered fugitive villains from his home planet of Krypton. Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve and Terence Stamp.

9.00 Film: Magnum Force. (1973) Action thriller sequel, starring Clint Eastwood.

11.30 Film: Road House 2: Last Call. (2006) Action thriller sequel, starring Johnathon Schaech.

1.15 SuperCasino. **4.05** House Doctor. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Junior Doctors: Your Life in Their Hands **8.00** Gavin & Stacey – Christmas Special **9.00** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents **10.00** Him & Her **10.30** American Dad! **11.15** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 A Child's Christmases in Wales **8.00** Love Me Do: The Beatles '62 **9.00** Why Poverty? Solar Mamas **10.00 Film:** The Big Picture (2010) **11.50** Love Me Do: The Beatles '62

ITV2
3.45 Take Me Out – The Gossip **4.45** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.45** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! Top Trials **6.50 Film:** Kindergarten Cop (1990) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Results **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50 Film:** 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003)

ITV3
2.20 A Touch of Frost **4.35** Wycliffe **5.45** The Return of Sherlock Holmes **8.00** Wycliffe **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.05** Ghostboat

ITV4
12.30 Live Darts. The PDC Players Championship Finals. **5.15** 20 Football Transfers That Shocked the World **6.10** Cheers **6.45** Live Darts. The PDC Players Championship Finals. **11.30 Film:** The Thing (1982) Sci-fi horror remake, starring Kurt Russell.

E4
3.35 New Girl **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Scrooged (1988) **10.00** Misfits **11.00** 2 Broke Girls **11.30** The Big Bang Theory

Film4
3.05 The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) **4.45** Rooster Cogburn (1975) **6.55** The Phantom (1996) **8.50** Seven Psychopaths **9.00** The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009) **11.10** Pushing Tin (1999)

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Film Choices

Monday
Duplex, BBC1, 11.20pm
A couple are overjoyed to find the home of their dreams, and do not let the matter of a little old lady living upstairs put them off. However, once they move in, she turns out to be a less than ideal neighbour, tempting them to consider resorting to murder to get rid of her. Comedy, directed by Danny DeVito and starring Drew Barrymore, Ben Stiller, Eileen Essell, Harvey Fierstein, Justin Theroux, James Remar, Robert Wisdom and Swoosie Kurtz. (2003)

Tuesday
The Enemy Below, Channel 4, 12.45pm
The captain of an American destroyer in the South Atlantic is still recovering from the sinking of his previous vessel. He tries to outwit a cunning German U-boat commander, but comes to respect the courage of his enemy. However, his crew fears he is not up to the challenge of defeating his opponent. Second World War thriller, starring Robert Mitchum, Curt Jurgens, Theodore Bikel, David Hedison, Kurt Kreuger, Frank Albertson, David Bair and Jeff Daley. (1957)

Wednesday
Untraceable, Channel 5, 10pm
An FBI agent investigates a seemingly untraceable website whose owner films himself committing murder and releases the footage online - and the more people watch, the more violent he becomes. As the agent searches for a connection between the victims, word gets out about the site, leading to a rise in its popularity and the number of increasingly horrific killings. Horror, with Diane Lane, Billy Burke, Colin Hanks, Joseph Cross, Mary Beth Hurt and Peter Lewis. (2008)

Under Siege, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

Thursday
Under Siege, Channel 5, 10pm
Terrorists infiltrate a US battleship in a carefully orchestrated move to steal its arsenal of nuclear weapons, unaware the ship's resourceful cook — a veteran US Navy Seal – and a scantily clad stripper are about to foil their plans. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal, Tommy Lee Jones, Erika Eleniak, Gary Busey, Patrick O'Neal, Damian Chapa, Troy Evans, David McKnight and Colm Meaney. (1992)

Friday
Basic Instinct, ITV1, 11.10pm
A hard-drinking San Francisco cop investigates the case of a man murdered with an ice-pick, but his normally well-honed intuition starts letting him down as he falls for the sultry and manipulative chief suspect, the victim's former girlfriend. Thriller from director Paul Verhoeven, starring Sharon Stone, Michael Douglas, George Dzundza and Jeanne Tripplehorn. (1992)

Pick of the Week

Variety is still proving to be the spice of life

The mother of all entertainment shows is here once again, and as usual it features many different performers, each doing their thing in front of a packed audience.

If variety is the spice of your life, then this most spectacular of extravaganzas is likely to pep up Monday night's viewing no end with two-and-a-half hours of the stuff of which showbiz legends are made.

Host David Walliams welcomes our own celebrity staples Alan Carr, Amanda Holden, Bradley Walsh, Des O'Connor, Ronnie Corbett and Bruce Forsyth, along with global superstars Alicia Keys, Andrea Bocelli, Kylie Minogue, Neil Diamond, One Direction (calm yourselves girls), Placido Domingo and Rod Stewart.

And if that's not enough to get you tuning in, how about Girls Aloud, Bill Bailey, Katherine Jenkins, Robbie Williams and the cast of West End hits Matilda and The Bodyguard?

However, the act everyone wants to see is Ashleigh and Pudsey who, of course, won their spot on the show by winning this year's Britain's Got Talent.

If you are a fan of BGT, look out for the return of previous finalists Diversity, Spelbound, Stavros Flatley and Paul Potts.

Walliams is rather thrilled to be hosting this year's event. "It is a show that I have watched every year from a very young age, and never dreamed I would be one day be a part of it," he enthuses.

Those lucky enough to have been backstage at one of these bashes will know how much time and effort goes into its preparation.

In 1996, one fresh-faced journalist spent seven hours waiting back stage during the dress rehearsal for the celebrities to turn up for a chat.

You were allowed to go to the loo of course, but hanging around at the back of the Dominion Theatre and watching host Bob Monkhouse was a no-no. However, by the time the likes of Tom Jones, the much-missed Jill Dando and Robson and Jerome turned up, all those hours of waiting paid off.

Now, 16 years on, the show is celebrating its 100th birthday, so the tension backstage will be greater than ever as the talent and the tech team give 110 per cent to ensure the night goes off without a hitch.

Most of the acts on this year's show will have rehearsed their act to death to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Just a pity Dallas veteran Larry Hagman didn't try a little harder during a song at his Royal Variety in 1980. Having forgotten the words, he hummed along and then stopped the orchestra. "Well, I blew it," he grinned. "Well, there you go."

It scarcely mattered. Even the Queen was curious to find out who shot his beloved alter ego JR.

Last year Barry Manilow had problems with a backing track, but by the time the final show was screened for TV viewers, any problems had been edited out.

With a little luck, any wrinkles in this year's bash will be ironed out at the dress rehearsal. Let's hope everything is all right on the night.

David Walliams hosts The Royal Variety Performance, Monday, ITV1, 7.30pm

Best of the Rest

Monday
Inside Claridge's
BBC2, 9pm
It's been the subject of many a film, is a home-from-home for the royals, and the celebs simply aren't A-list enough if they're not frequenting the luxurious high-ceilinged venue, but Claridges is finally opening its door to we mere mortals – well, in the form of a fly-on-the-wall documentary at least. This is the first time anything like this has been done in the hotel's 200-year history, but it is a rather fitting way to mark the milestone birthday. Claridges' regal associations were confirmed as far back as 1860, and since then, it has become known as an 'extension to Buckingham Palace'. But what of the elite who regularly stay at the hotel? Director Jane Treays lets us in on their secrets…

Tuesday
Murder Files: The Haircut Killer
Channel 5, 8pm
Channel 5 has broadcast more than its fair share of crime documentaries over the years, but few have been as upsetting as this one. It focuses on the story of Danilo Restivo, dubbed 'The Haircut Killer', because of his fetish for cutting women's hair – as well as their throats. In June 2011, he was convicted of the murder of Heather Barnett, who lived in Bournemouth with her two children – sadly it was Heather's offspring who discovered their mother's body when they returned home from school. Daughter Caitlin describes the horror she and her brother were confronted with, while Heather's sister Denise also discusses the incriminating evidence found at the scene.

Last Tango in Halifax
BBC1, 9pm
Although Celia and Alan are clearly crazy about each other and desperate to tie the knot so they can spend the rest of their lives together, even they have arguments from time to time. It seems a major confrontation could be brewing when they not only fall out about their differing political views, they also disagree about where their marriage should take place. Meanwhile, Gillian makes a nuisance of herself by telling John he needs to stick up for himself more – but when he appears on Caroline's doorstep announcing he's moving back in, she isn't best pleased.

Wednesday
The Town
ITV1, 9pm
Andrew Scott is probably best known for being Moriarty to Benedict Cumberbatch's Sherlock, but can he outwit Miss Marple? Maybe we'll find out in this promising three-part drama, which sees Scott starring alongside Julia McKenzie and Martin Clunes. It follows Mark (Scott), an architect who returns to his hometown in the wake of a family tragedy, only to find that a lot has changed while he's been gone. If it makes him feel any better, he's not the only one who's struggling. Hard-drinking local mayor Len (Clunes) is lurching from one PR disaster to another – and what exactly is linking enigmatic copper Inspector Franks (Douglas Hodge) to Mark's family?

The Town, Wednesday, ITV1, 9pm

Thursday
Jamie & Jimmy's Food Fight Club
Channel 4, 9pm
Let's face it, we Brits don't have the best reputation when it comes to culinary expertise. But old pals Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty are determined to change all that via this new series. Each week, they will focus on a different type of food, then travel the UK in search of the best examples. But it's after that that the fun really begins. Jamie and Jimmy will then set off for the European mainland to do battle with their counterparts in France, Germany or Italy to discover whether British nosh can hold its own abroad – or whether we really do lag behind in the flavour stakes. Expect to see some A-list celebrities and audience participation along the way too.

Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 9pm
Originally set to be broadcast on October 24, but pushed back because of the start of Michael Palin's Brazil series, here's a chance at last to see John Bishop delving into his family's past. Although his accent gives away the fact he was born and bred on Merseyside, his family ties lie elsewhere in a variety of rather colourful characters. Among them are an army band member, a lay vicar and a Crimean War fighter. Bishop also travels to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard to find out what may have happened to one of his relatives who served in the Navy during the Victorian era.

Friday
Peter Kay – In Conversation
Channel 4, 9pm
There was a time when the words 'garlic bread' and 'cheesecake' would not bring a smile to the face, but Peter Kay changed all that. Within a few years, the roly-poly funnyman went from being a warm-up act for Michael Parkinson's chat show to being a main attraction in front of the camera. In this new one-off show, Kay chats to Danny Baker about his phenomenally successful career. His last UK tour entered the Guinness Book of Records as the biggest stand-up comedy tour in the world, but what is it that makes him tick? Here he reveals for the first time the creative process behind his work, giving a rare insight into his TV series and live comedy.

The Graham Norton Show
BBC1, 10.35pm
Jessica Ennis may have the sort of abs and figure usually reserved for comic books, but her achievement at London 2012 was no fantasy. So expect the audience to go wild this week as the pride of Sheffield, and indeed the whole of the UK, drops into the studio for a chat. Daniel Radcliffe might look bashful in her presence, but he hasn't had a bad year either. Okay, the Harry Potter saga may now be consigned to history, but he proved he still had plenty of commercial clout when The Woman in Black grossed $127million worldwide.

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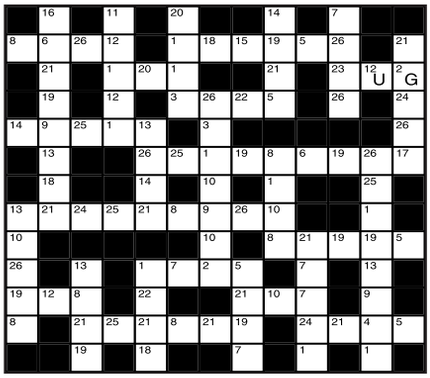
What's On!

Brain Gym No.197

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
M	W	P	X	J	C	S	L	K	Q	F	G	D
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	E	H	U	Z	R	N	O	B	V	I	A	Y

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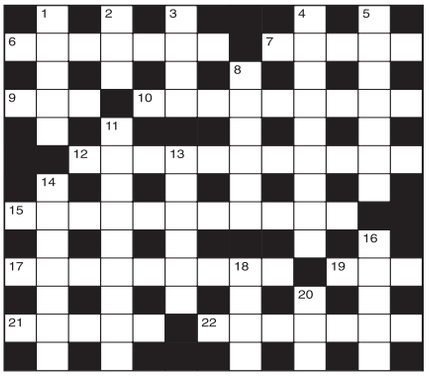
Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Swift seller (3,4)
7. He refuses to settle (5)
9. The time in which the race was run (3)
10. Capital charge not dealt with in lower courts? (5,4)
12. Wrong way to make wealth! (5,3,3)
15. Raiment last altered for an old language teacher (5,6)
17. It is clear in composition, and practical (9)
19. Not against the professional (3)
21. One is upset by such a din (5)
22. Quite different people have it in common (7)

Down

1. Get on a governing body (5)
2. Express service unit (3)
3. Bound to leave something out (4)
4. Concerted movement put something on a firm basis (9)
5. He may be involved in a row (7)
8. New arrivals, we hear, at the docks (6)
11. Useless as a costermonger without stock (9)
13. Not quite out of St. Malo (6)
14. Be fond of and look after (4,3)
16. Stadium takes an age to erect (5)
18. Might be in or even out (4)
20. Reserved for the cast (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Expedite (7)
7. Exclude (5)
9. Ancient (3)
10. Make thin (9)
12. Submissive (11)
15. Counsel (11)
17. Fellowship (9)
19. Badly (3)
21. Oneness (5)
22. Exult (7)

Down

1. Cunning (5)
2. Deed (3)
3. Enthusiasm (4)
4. Subtraction (9)
5. Incomplete (7)
8. Forsake (6)
11. Ugliness (9)
13. Lengthen (6)
14. Interpret (7)
16. Lax (5)
18. Finished (4)
20. Pledge (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Administrator; 8 Housetop; 9 Ally; 10 Patent; 12 Awards; 14 Hereto; 16 Stress; 18 Flag; 20 Back-door; 22 Singing-master. Down: 1 Advocate; 2 Tissue; 3 Hilt; 4 Stop-gaps; 5 Canada; 6 Pool; 11 Trombone; 13 Discover; 15 Engage; 17 Radish; 19 Laid; 21 Comb.
QUICK - Across: 7 Expostulation; 8 Shortens; 9 Aver; 10 Annexe; 12 Finish; 14 Repast; 16 Listen; 18 Show; 20 Narcotic; 22 Encyclopaedia. Down: 1 Exchange; 2 Course; 3 Stye; 4 Blissful; 5 Strain; 6 Lone; 11 Entangle; 13 Specific; 15 Always; 17 Stolen; 19 Hang; 21 Ripe.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

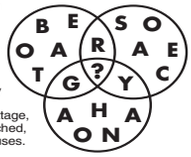
5			6				1	
	9			3				5
1						4	2	9
		3	5		2			
7	8			1			5	6
			9			8		
3	7	1			8	5		2
		2		5			7	
	6				3			8

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	5	9	1	4	3	2	6	8
3	4	8	7	2	6	1	9	5
1	6	2	5	8	9	7	4	3
5	1	3	9	7	8	6	2	4
6	2	7	3	1	4	8	5	9
9	8	4	2	6	5	3	7	1
4	7	5	8	3	2	9	1	6
2	3	6	4	9	1	5	8	7
8	9	1	6	5	7	4	3	2

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is C. Cottage, terraced, detached, all types of houses.

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The extended semi-detached house in the Delves area of Walsall has a loft room/bedroom three

Extended semi-detached home has a versatile loft

A WELL-PRESENTED two bedroom extended semi-detached property in the popular residential area of Delves in Walsall is for sale based on offers around £164,950.

With the added benefit of a loft room/bedroom three and open views to the rear, the house, in Delves Crescent, offers good sized living accommodation comprising of enclosed porch, hall, lounge, dining room to fitted kitchen, separate utility, downstairs bathroom, two bedrooms with the master en-suite, gas central heating and part double glazing.

There is also a driveway, garage and attractive rear garden.

Feature

On the ground floor the lounge, 10ft 9in by 11ft 11in, has a feature fireplace with gas fire while the sitting/dining room – 13ft 7in by 14ft 10in – has a feature open fireplace with door to the garage and utility room.

The kitchen, 10ft 10in by 9ft, has a range of wall and base units with roll edge work surfaces, stainless steel sink and drainer, integral electric cooker and gas hob with cooker hood over and space for fridge/freezer.

There is a family bathroom with panelled bath, WC and wash hand basin and a utility room with plumbing for washing machine and space for dryer and freezer.

On the first floor the master bedroom has an en-suite with shower cubicle and WC, and there is a second bedroom and stairs to a loft room/bedroom three.

Outside to the front is a lawned front garden with gravelled driveway providing off road parking and leading to a garage, while the rear garden has a gravelled patio area leading to a lawn with tree and shrub borders and views over Walsall golf course.

For more details or to view the property call Henderson Hynes on 01922 627100.

Viewed from the rear garden of the property in Delves Crescent

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Lot 2	Former Neighbourhood Premises Corner of Sheepwash Lane & Whitehall Road, Great Bridge, Tipton	Commercial Vacant
Lot 3	Former Neighbourhood Office Clifton Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant
Lot 4	Former Nightclub/Restaurant Premises Adj. 4 Lombard Street West, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant
Lot 5	Land at Junction of Dingle Street & Dingle Hollow, Oldbury, West Midlands	Land
Lot 6	Land Adj. 75 Florence Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Land
Lot 7	Land Adjoining 107 & 109 Highfield Road, Tipton	Land
Lot 8	Land Adj. 20 Holden Road, Wednesbury	Land
Lot 9	Land Between 8 & 10 Melrose Avenue, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Land
Lot 10	Former 107-115 Pottery Road, Oldbury, West Midlands	Land
Lot 11	Site at 40 South Road, Smethwick, West Midlands	Land
Lot 12	Land Adj. 129 Stony Lane, Smethwick, West Midlands	Land
Lot 13	Land at Junction of Vittoria Street & Wellington Street, Smethwick, West Midlands	Land
Lot 14	Land at Corner of Windmill Street/Windmill Terrace, Wednesbury	Land
Lot 15	70 Beckett Street, Bilston	Residential Vacant
Lot 16	43 Stratton Street, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 17	19 Woodford Avenue, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 17A	5 High Street, Amblecote, Stourbridge	Commercial Investment
Lot 18	34 Pedmore Walk, Oldbury, West Midlands	Commercial / Residential Vacant
Lot 19	7a Coventry Road, Coleshill, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant
Lot 20	The Punchbowl, Tuttle Hill, Nuneaton	Commercial Vacant
Lot 21	17 Naden Road, Hockley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 22	38 Brickhouse Lane South, Great Bridge	Residential Vacant
Lot 23	The Willows, 190 Victoria Road, Aston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 24	55 Albert Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 25	Land Adj. Alexandra Street & Edward Street, Dudley	Land
Lot 26	The Bird In Hand, 942 London Road, Stoke-on-Trent	Commercial Vacant
Lot 27	The Spring Cottage, 60 Elmore Green Road, Bloxwich	Commercial Vacant
Lot 28	Somerset Surgery, Somerset Road, Stoke-on-Trent	Commercial Vacant
Lot 29	16 Sarehole Road, Hall Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 30	46 Bhylls Lane, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 31	The Stepping Stones, Birmingham Road, Stourbridge	Commercial Vacant
Lot 32	The Crown Inn, Old Chester Road South, Kidderminster	Commercial Vacant
Lot 33	49 The Uplands, Smethwick, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 34	Former Office at R/o Petersbourne Court, Petersfield Commercial Vacant/ Road Hall Green, Birmingham	Development
Lot 35	Land at Chetwynd Street, Smallthorne, Stoke-on-Trent	Land
Lot 35A	Land at Frome Valley Haulage Depot, Bishops Frome, Worcester	Land
Lot 36	26 Tipton Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 37	44 Vera Road, Yardley, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 38	42 Station Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 39	146 Melton Road, Solihull, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 40	Squires Scrapyard, Common Road, Evesham, Worcestershire	Commercial Vacant
Lot 40A	12 St Michael Street, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 41	40 Simcox Road, Wednesbury	Residential Vacant
Lot 42	81-83 Stafford Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent	Commercial Vacant
Lot 43	The Railway Inn, 96 Bromford Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant
Lot 44	The Vauxhall, Abbey Road, Evesham, Worcestershire	Commercial Vacant
Lot 44A	Beach Trade Centre, 130a Stoney Lane, Sparkhill, Birmingham	Commercial Investment
Lot 45	28 Wychbold Crescent, Kitts Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 46	66 Round Street, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 47	2 Glenthorne Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 48	13 Birmingham New Road, Tipton	Residential Vacant
Lot 49	Painters Cottage, 30 Avenue Road, Coseley	Residential Vacant
Lot 50	3 Byron Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 51	The Grove, off Daisy Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 52	63 Weston Drive, Bilston	Residential Investment
Lot 53	8 New Street, Tipton	Residential Vacant
Lot 54	Bar Gate Cottages, Bar Gate, Newark	Residential Investment
Lot 55	The Bell Inn, Bell Lane, Kitts Green, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 56	31 Brian Road, Smethwick, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 57	33 Brian Road, Smethwick, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 58	223 Bushbury Lane, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 59	563-565 Warwick Road, Tyseley, Birmingham	Commercial/Residential Investment
Lot 60	137 Lode Lane, Solihull, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 61	Vulcan Works, Hayes Lane, Stourbridge	Commercial Vacant
Lot 62	104 Neville Road, Erdington, Birmingham	SOLD PRIOR
Lot 63	63 Elm Terrace, Tividale, West Midlands Residential Vacant	NOT BEING OFFERED
Lot 64	Drogheda, 978 Perhsore Road, Selly Park, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 65	20 Great Bridge Road, Bilston	Residential Vacant
Lot 66	122/122A Hawthorn Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham	Commercial/ Residential Vacant
Lot 67	180 Wolverhampton Street, Bilston	Land
Lot 68	4 Lyng Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant
Lot 69	5 Rudd Close, off Dace Road, Worcester, Worcestershire	Residential Investment
Lot 70	4 Timothy Road, Tividale, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 71	Unit A Weir Lane, Worcester, Worcestershire	Commercial Vacant
Lot 72	8 Moore Street, Hednesford	Residential Vacant
Lot 73	49 Providence Row, Coseley	Residential Vacant
Lot 74	1 Satchwell Walk, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire	Commercial Vacant
Lot 75	49 Camberley, Beaconview Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Investment
Lot 75A	119 Camberley, Beaconview Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Investment
Lot 76	96 Sir Hiltons Road, West Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 77	67 Highbridge Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 78	108 Church Road, Bradmore, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 79	Garages at Templemore Drive & Woodfort Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Garages
Lot 80	Garages at Eliot Way via Newport Road, Stafford	Garages
Lot 81	Station Masters Cottage, 24 Station Road, Hednesford	Residential Investment
Lot 82	31 Ynysfeio Avenue, Treherbert, Mid Glamorgan	Residential Investment
Lot 83	Strategic Land at Portway Hill, Tividale, Oldbury, West Midlands	Land
Lot 84	Strategic Land at Kennford Road, Rowley Regis, Oldbury, West Midlands	Land
Lot 85	212 Poplar Avenue, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 86	36 Maas Road, Northfield, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 87	141 May Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 88	17 Bean Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 89	27 Windrush Grove, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 89A	522 Coventry Road, Small Heath, Bimingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 90	46 Somerset Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 91	73 Preston Road, Yardley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 92	53 Park Road, Woodsetton	Residential Vacant
Lot 93	31 Nelson Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 94	456 Harborne Park Road, Harborne, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 95	48 Church Road, Bradmore, Wolverhampton	Residential Investment

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45 King Street
Darlaston
WS10 8DE

Willenhall
22 New Road
Willenhall
WV13 2BG

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connecting people with property

House buying? It's time to ring a friend

Buying with friends can be exiting but it is important to make sure everything is done properly

Joining forces is ideal but there is a lot to consider

FIRST-TIME buyers struggling to raise large deposits or secure finance from reluctant banks could consider buying with family or friends as a potential solution to help spread the costs of buying and maintaining a home.

But with a house likely to be the biggest purchase of a lifetime, it is important for anyone considering a joint ownership arrangement to get it right from the start, according to the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA).

Wendy Evans-Scott, President of the NAEA, said: "Despite a slight increase in the provision of mortgage finance, many first time buyers are still struggling to get on the housing ladder.

Vital

"Splitting the cost of a substantial deposit, maintenance and mortgage repayments could make owning a home a more realistic aim for many would-be first time buyers.

"I would, however, advise anyone looking to enter into joint ownership that a transparent relationship between all parties is imperative if the process is to go smoothly. That is a vital step whether you are buying with family, friends or another third party."

To aid buyers, NAEA recommends the following:

Consider your mortgage options

There are mortgages that exist specifically for this type of purchase, so shop around for the best deal.

Remember that, with a combined income, it may be possible to attain a mortgage of higher value, giving you greater choice of properties

Think about the worst case scenario

One of the benefits of buying with friends or family should be a high level of trust, but that shouldn't be to the detriment of legalities. Consult lawyers about a legally binding co-ownership contract and agree in advance what will happen if one owner's circumstances change

Keep paperwork in order

Remember, this is a business transaction, and any paperwork relating to the property or mortgage must be in the names of the co-buyers. Ensure copies are made of all documents associated with the purchase to allow them to be readily accessible to both parties

Don't forget who owns the TV

Drawing up a comprehensive inventory of non-shared items or other costs, and keeping a note of who pays for things like paint, at the start of the shared ownership can reduce confusion months or years down the line. This should also help if one party decides to move out

Set a realistic timeframe

If you are buying with a friend it is likely that the relationship is, ultimately, temporary. For this reason, co-ownership should always be treated as an investment decision and buying a house with a good potential resale value makes sound business sense.

K.Stuart Swash
PROPERTY AUCTION

9 KENT STREET, WALSALL

Well located Terraced House

Two Reception, large Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms

Guide: £55,000/£60,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 30th NOVEMBER & 1st DECEMBER @10.45 a.m.

AUCTION
11th December

33 MILTON ROAD, COSELEY

Generously proportioned Three Bed Semi.,

With Lounge spacious Dining Kitchen, Cloakroom with w.c. Upstairs Bathroom, Gas C.H., Outside Store, Front and Rear Gardens

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 30th NOVEMBER & 1st DECEMBER @ 11.45 a.m.

Guide: £73,000/£78,000

157 STUBBY LANE, WEDNESFIELD

Spacious and large Detached House with Gas C.H., Double Entrance Drive, enclosed Porch, Hall, Store off, Lounge, Dining Room, big Kitchen, Pantry and Store, Rear Lobby with w.c. off wide Landing, Four Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with white fittings. Separate w.c., Side access to Hall, large Study/Office, Kitchen, Cloakroom with wc and handbasin, Garage, Gardens

VIEWING
(Torch needed, bring your own)
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 30th NOVEMBER & 1st DECEMBER @ 9.15 a.m.

Guide: £115,000/£125,000

67 UPPER ETTINGSHALL ROAD, COSELEY
POTENTIAL BUILDING PLOT
Planning Permission granted - but now expired - for erection of Detached House to offer Three Bedrooms (one en suite), Reception, Kitchen, Car Port

Guide: £28,000/£33,000

174 STAFFORD STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

Freehold Shop Premises in busy location with Two Flats over

Shop vacant. Flats let currently producing 9,240 p.a.x.

VIEWING

THURSDAY 29th NOVEMBER @ 11.00 a.m. & FRIDAY 30th NOVEMBER @ 1.00 p.m.

Guide: £125,000/£135,000

4 NEW BUILDINGS, STAFFORD ROAD, COVEN HEATH

With open outlooks to front and rear - a large Mid Terraced with Gas C.H.
Enclosed Porch, Two Reception, long Kitchen, Utility area, Two Double Bedrooms, white Bathroom, Outside Store, long Rear Garden abutting fields

VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER & 1st DECEMBER @ 11.00 a.m.

Guide: £73,000/£78,000

47 THE LINDENS, NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON
Ground Floor Flat with access to Gardens to rear, Private Hall, Lounge with garden door, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage
VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 30th NOVEMBER & 1st DECEMBER @ 10.00 a.m.
Guide: £52,000/£55,000

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Home of Property
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Adding touch of sparkle to your home at Christmas

Decorate doors, inside and out, with Christmas wreathes

Use festive tablecloth, runner and serviettes to brighten up the dining table. Crackers with little name cards add that special touch

IF you're like most people, you don't have much time left at the end of a busy day to do anything extra.

But at this time of year, you want to do something to make your home look festive and special and create the wonderful Christmas holiday atmosphere.

You'll find some ideas here for quick and simple ways to add a festive look to your home without spending a lot of time or money. Most are the ideas are very easy, many are free, and none takes more than a minimum of time and effort.

Decorate everything with bows

Tie generous ribbons to chair backs, candlesticks, picks in plants, wreaths, garlands, basket handles, drapery tie-backs, stair railings, and doorknobs.

Bows look festive and the ribbons you choose should tie together with the rest of your decorating.

Use festive tableware

Look through your cupboards and get out any dishes that look festive. Discount stores often carry seconds of name brand china, as well as fun designs that are not so common.

Start a set of holiday dishes with dinner plates that co-ordinate with your everyday dishes.

Turn off the lights

Arrange lots of candles on the dining table and dine by candlelight, even if you're just having left-overs. Every meal will feel special.

Burn a fire in the fireplace each evening and encourage family members to gather around and read or write Christmas cards.

Hang holiday wreaths

Put a wreath or swag on every door you have. Of course, start with the front door to welcome guests. Go on to the back door, inside and out. Remember over the mantle, and in all your front windows.

Use lots of special colour

Don't even think about not putting up the perfect Christmas tree. Drape garlands, either real or artificial, on railings, over mirrors, on the top of armoires, and along the mantle.

Do you hear what I hear?

Whenever you're home, turn on a CD or the radio and listen to Christmas music. Tie some sleigh bells onto the front door, and listen to the cheery welcome.

Check the schedules ahead of time so you don't miss the Christmas specials on TV.

Have something sweet around

Prepare a bowl of fresh fruit or holiday cookies to put out as soon as guests arrive.

Add gifts of nature

Use leftover greens from your Christmas tree to make a few quick arrangements in simple bowls. Place a simple arrangement in a bookcase, on the bath sink, on the kitchen window sill, and on occasional tables.

Add shine and sparkle

Sprinkle artificial snow across your tabletop or buffet or on house plants. Place shiny ornaments in a clear glass bowl or vase. Embellish indoor plants or trees with shiny ornaments.

Create memories

Plan a time in the day when the family is home to open the doors of an advent calendar. Make a ritual of lighting the Christmas tree each evening. Remember friends or acquaintances who cannot go out and offer a small, decorated Christmas tree.

By keeping things simple, you'll find that you can enjoy the season, the lights, and the traditions with family and friends without getting tired out.

For more information go to interiordecoratingabout.com

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01922 627100
29 BRADFORD STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1PN
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ROWAN ROAD, DELVES

• Four Bed Semi • C/H & D/G • Porch • Hall • Two Receptions • Kitchen • Utility • W.C. • En-suite • Bathroom • Driveway • Garage • Garden
Offers around £214,950

GREENSIDE WAY, DELVES

NEW NEW NEW NEW
• Four bed semi • CH & DG • Hall • W.C. • Two Receptions • Kitchen • Utility • Bathroom • Shower room • Driveway • Garage • Garden
Offers around £209,950

DELVES CRESCENT, DELVES

• Two bed semi • Loft Room • CH & part DG • Porch • Hall • Two Receptions • Kitchen • Utility • Bathroom • En-suite
Offers around £164,950

FRIEZLAND LANE, BROWNHILLS

BACK ON MARKET
• Three bed detached • CH & DG • Porch • Hall • Lounge • Dining • Kitchen • Bathroom • Driveway • Garage • Garden
Offers around £139,950

HAWTHORNE ROAD, DELVES

ALSO AVAILABLE TO RENT
• Three bed semi • CH & DG • Hall • Extended Lounge • Kitchen • Utility • Bathroom • Driveway • Garage • Garden
Offers around £125,995

DORA STREET, PLECK

• Three Bed mid-terrace • C/H & D/G • Two receptions Rooms • downstairs Bathroom • Kitchen • Yard & Rear garden
Offers around £89,950

NAEA ESTATE AGENTS & PROPERTY LETTINGS ARLA

GLAISEDALE GROVE, WILLENHALL

• Three bed detached • Gas Ch & Dg • Lounge • Kitchen • Bathroom • Driveway • Garden
£550 PCM

FIELD ROAD, BLOXWICH

• Three bed semi • Gas Ch & Dg • Lounge • New Kitchen • New Bathroom • Driveway • Suit professional
£500 PCM

BLACKTHORNE ROAD, DELVES

• Three bed semi • Gas CH & DG • Lounge • DIning Kitchen • Conservatory • Driveway • Suit professional
£525 PCM

PIMPERNEL DRIVE

• Two bed terrace • Elec CH & DG • Lounge • New Kitchen • New Bathroom • Parking • Suit professional
£495 PCM

WATERFRONT WAY, TOWN CENTRE

• Two bed apartment • Elec CH & DG • Lounge • Kitchen Area • Bathroom • Suit professional
£495 PCM

PARKLAND GARDENS, WALSALL

• One bed flat • Ground Floor • Lounge • Kitchen • Bathroom • Garage • Communal gardens
£415 PCM

AWARD WINNING INDEPENDENT ESTATE

Take on the David Wilson Christmas Challenge...

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It's not too late to enjoy this Christmas in a new David Wilson home and with Part Exchange* we could buy your existing property leaving you free to buy one of ours!

There's no chain and no hassle meaning you can concentrate on organising a perfect Christmas whilst we do all the hard work for you.

We also have schemes available for first time buyers, ask us for more information.

But hurry, with only a few homes remaining at Waterside Walk this is your last chance to buy.

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2, 3 & 4 bedroom homes from £87,500

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Home of Property

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This much improved and extended home is available in Broadway, Hednesford

Have a starring role on Broadway at three-bedroom extended house

AN IMPROVED and extended three bedroom semi-detached house in Hednesford is on the market priced at £124,950.

The property in Broadway has an entrance lobby, lounge, refitted kitchen, utility, cloaks/shower room with WC, conservatory, three bedrooms and bathroom, and also benefits from gas central heating, double gazing where stated, double width off-road parking and gardens.

On the ground floor the lounge, 12ft 10in by 15ft 4in, has a feature fire surround with marble hearth and inset and natural flame gas fire.

The kitchen – measuring 15ft 1in by 16ft 2in – has a range of base units, wall cupboards, electric built-in oven, gas hob, oven hood and stainless steel sink with mixer taps.

Utility

A door gives access to the conservatory measuring 9ft 7in by 11ft 9in.

With plumbing for an automatic washing machine, there is also a utility room, 5ft 10in by 5ft 8in, and a cloaks/shower room with WC, wash hand basin and cubicle with electric shower.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite incorporating panelled bath, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

Outside to the front is parking space, with the gardens having lawns and paved pathways.

For further details or to arrange a viewing of this property contact the estate agent Boot & Son on 01543 505 454.

K. Stuart Swash

7 WYKEN, WORFIELD

A charming and surprisingly spacious Detached House together with adjoining Shop Premises
For many years this property formed part of the Wyken Estate and now comes on to the open market for the first time. Standing on a large plot of land the house has been conscientiously maintained and offers oil fired central heating and double glazing throughout. Front door opening to character Dining Room with beamed ceiling and recessed inglenook style fireplace. Lounge, spacious Dining Kitchen with 'Rayburn' cooker, Ground Floor Shower Room, First Floor Landing, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Outside: Garage, wide Entrance Drive to the side, extensive and attractive enclosed Garden. Adjoining Shop – currently leased to Butchers (Business Unaffected).

Offers in the region of £350,000

2 Waterloo Road Wolverhampton WV1 4BL
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L & S PRESTIGE ESTATES

LETTINGS L&S PRESTIGE ESTATES SALES

46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ

FOR SALE

CANNOCK RD, NEW INVENTION
Extended Four Bed Detached Property Set On A Large Plot, Comprising Of Lounge, Dining Room, Sitting Room, Extended Fitted Kitchen, Groundfloor WC, Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Double Garage, Majority D/Glazing, C/Heating, Vehicle Access To Rear.
£239,995

FOR SALE

CEDAR PARK RD, NEW INVENTION
Immaculately Presented Three Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Double Glazing, Central Heating Garage/Workshop, Sought After Location Must Be Viewied!!
£149,995

FOR SALE

WILLENHALL STREET, DARLASTON
Well Presented Four Bedroom Extended Semi, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Utility Area, W.C, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway, Garage.
£134,995

FOR SALE

BENTLEY MILL LANE, BENTLEY
Extended Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Lounge, Extended Breakfast Kitchen, Groundfloor W.C, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, C/Heating & D/Glazing, Garage, Workshop. VIEWING ESSENTIAL.
£134,995

FOR SALE

STUBBINGTON CL, PORTOBELLO
Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Sunroom, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Detached Garage And Driveway.
£129,995

FOR SALE

STUBBY LANE, WEDNESFIELD
Well Presented Three Bed Traditional Semi, Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Double Length Driveway, Large Rear Garden, Popular Location.
£119,995

FOR SALE

ST CHADS ROAD, BILSTON
Extended Two Bed Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining/Utility Area, Wet Room, C/Heating, Majority D/Glazing, Off Road Parking, Front And Rear Gardens. Ideal Investment Or First Time Buy!
£112,500

FOR SALE

HARPER STREET, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W/C, Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Allocated Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden.
£109,995

FOR SALE

SNAPE ROAD, ASHMORE PARK
•••NO CHAIN••• Fully Refurbished Two Bed Semi With Great Potential To Extend, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing Front And Rear Gardens. Ideal First Time Buy!
£107,500

FOR SALE

BAYNTON ROAD, NEW INVENTION
Three Bed Semi Comprising Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Part D/Glazing, Part C/Heating, Rear Garden, Integral Garage And Off Road Parking. Requires Improvements, Great First Time Buy Or Investment! No Chain!
£105,000

FOR SALE

CIRCUIT CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Well Presented End Town House, Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Spacious Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Off Road Parking. Cul-De-Sac Location, Ideal First Time Buy!
£102,000

FOR SALE

ROCHESTER CROFT, REEDSWOOD
Well Presented Modern Two Bed Mid Town House, Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Conservatory, Shower Room, Also Benefiting From D/Glazing And C/Heating, Rear Garden, Ideal First Time Buy!
£99,995

FOR SALE

SQUIRES GROVE, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Modern First Floor Apartment In This Popular Location, Lounge/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Electric Heating, D/Glazing, Allocated Parking. Must View!
£89,995

FOR SALE

WOOD STREET, WEDNESBURY
Well Presented Two Bed End Town House, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen Diner, Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing And C/Heating. Fantastic Buy To Let Or First Time Buy!
£89,995

FOR SALE

BROADWATERS ROAD, DARLASTON
Three Bed End Town House Comprising Of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, D/Glazing, Off Road Parking And Rear Garden With Workshop. Ideal Investment Or FTB!
£87,995

FOR SALE

REGENT ST, WILLENHALL
Spacious Three Bed Semi Which Is In Need Of Modernisation, Having Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Groundfloor Bathroom And Three Double Bedrooms. To The Outside Is An Enclosed Rear Garden. Ideal Investment Or FTB.
£69,995

TO LET

OVERFIELD DR, SEDGEMOOR PARK
Three Bed Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage & Off Road Parking. Viewing Essential. (Sorry No DSS Or Pets)
£600 PCM

TO LET

HARPER ST, WILLENHALL
Modern Four Bed Three Storey Mid Town House Having Entrance Hallway, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Ground Floor W/C, Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Allocated Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden.
£575 PCM

TO LET

CASTLE DRIVE, SUMMER HAYES
Two Bed Bungalow Comprising Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Conservatory, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden And Detached Garage, Over 25's Only.
£535 PCM

TO LET

DORCHESTER RD, NEW INVENTION
Three Bed Semi Located In Popular Location. Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Lounge, Modern Kitchen Diner, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden.
£525 PCM

TO LET

CEDAR ROAD, WILLENHALL
Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow Comprises Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden And Off Road Parking.
£500 PCM

TO LET

HIGH ROAD, WILLENHALL
Spacious Mid Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Shower Room, Three Double Bedrooms, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Large Rear Garden, Must View!
£500 PCM

TO LET

HUNTINGTON RD, NEW INVENTION
Two Bed Mid Terraced House Having Spacious Lounge, Kitchen, Side Entry, Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom With Electric Shower, Double Glazing, Brick Outbuilding, Front And Rear Gardens. Great Location.
£450 PCM

TO LET

WOLVERHAMPTON ST, W'HALL
Three Bed First Floor Flat In Willenhall Town Centre Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Double Bedroom, Good Sized Rear Bedroom, Attic Conversion/Third Bedroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing And Off Road Parking To The Rear.
£425 PCM

Willenhall 01902 606595 rightmove.co.uk DPS **www.prestige-estatesuk.com**

NEW

SHORT HEATH
HUNTS LANE

- Superbly presented detached property
- Three good size bedrooms
- Spacious lounge
- Well appointed dining kitchen
- Luxury bathroom
- Superb en-suite shower room
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Driveway, rear garden

£169,950 MUST BE VIEWED

NEW

SHORT HEATH
WOOD LANE

- Well appointed traditional style semi
- Three bedrooms, one with built-in wardrobes
- Gas central heating, double glazed windows
- Spacious 27ft through lounge/dining room
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Fitted kitchen & downstairs guest cloakroom
- Garage, off road parking for several vehicles
- Front and rear gardens

£149,950 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED

NEW

WILLENHALL
HAWKSWELL DRIVE

- Well maintained extended semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Double glazing and central heating
- Two reception rooms
- Conservatory
- Fitted kitchen with selected appliances
- Utility room
- Pleasant enclosed rear garden
- Driveway providing off road parking

£127,500 VIEWING RECOMMENDED

NEW

WILLENHALL
PRINCETHORPE ROAD

- Modern End Town House
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Good size rear garden
- Driveway to the fore

£125,000

NEW

BENTLEY
WREXHAM AVENUE

- Extended traditional style semi detached property
- Two reception rooms
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Double glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- Garden to the rear
- Garage and driveway
- Views over Bentley Leisure Pavillion

£109,950 NO CHAIN

NEW

WILLENHALL
HOLMAN CLOSE

- Well presented mid town house
- Three bedrooms
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom, downstairs wc
- Low maintenance front and rear gardens
- Garage to the rear

£87,500

NEW

WILLENHALL
BILSTON LANE

- Spacious traditional style end terraced property
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Part UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Fitted kitchen and downstairs wc
- Rear parking and garden
- Ideal first time purchase

OFFERS OVER £80,000

OPEN VIEWING SAT 1ST DECEMBER 12NOON-1PM

NEW INVENTION, WILLENHALL
ESSINGTON ROAD

- Brand new development of two detached bungalows
- Two bedrooms
- Spacious living room & dining area
- Double glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- Fitted kitchen with oven & dishwasher
- Detached garage in separate block
- Enclosed rear garden
- Viewing essential to appreciate

£169,995 ONLY ONE REMAINING

REDUCED

OPEN HOUSE VIEWING 1ST DECEMBER 12NOON - 3PM

WEDNESFIELD
ELLARDS DRIVE

- Beautifully presented detached property in quiet cul-de-sac
- Three bedrooms
- Separate lounge & dining room
- UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
- Refitted kitchen & separate utility
- Refitted shower room
- Garage & concrete print off road parking
- Viewing essential to appreciate this family home

£159,995 OFFERS

COPPICE FARM
BUTTERMERE GROVE

- Superb extended modern detached property
- Five bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Office/occasional bedroom 6
- Conservatory
- En-suite shower room
- Excellent fitted bathroom
- Breakfast kitchen

WAS £289,950, NOW £279,950 OFFERS, VIEWING ESSENTIAL

WILLENHALL
GIPSY LANE

- Spacious traditional detached property
- Two reception rooms
- Superb breakfast kitchen/conservatory
- Three bedrooms
- Luxury bathroom
- Large rear gardens with workshop/gym
- No upward chain
- Off road parking

£190,000

REDUCED

HEDNESFORD
BOND WAY

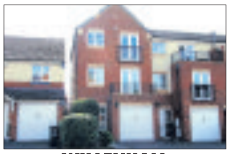
- Pleasantly appointed detached property
- Four bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Fitted kitchen inc oven and hob
- Conservatory/sun room
- Lovely enclosed rear garden

WAS £179,950, NOW £174,950 OFFERS

WILLENHALL
HIGH ROAD

- Spacious modern style detached residence
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge and separate dining room
- Fitted breakfast kitchen with selected appliances
- Block paved driveway

NOW £185,000



WILLENHALL
PRINCETHORPE ROAD

- Superbly appointed spacious modern end town house
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing
- Three/four bedrooms, two with en-suites
- Lounge/occasional bedroom four
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Living room, dining kitchen with Juliet balcony
- Pleasant rear garden

£154,995 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED

WILLENHALL
BEECH ROAD

- Traditional style semi-detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Majority gas central heating
- uPVC double glazing
- Large established rear garden
- Garage and off road parking
- NO CHAIN

£135,000 OFFERS

WILLENHALL
BARMOUTH CLOSE

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom
- Front and rear gardens
- Excellent potential to improve

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £120,000

SHORT HEATH
POOLES LANE

- Extended semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Breakfast kitchen
- Generous rear garden
- Block paved driveway to the fore

£120,000 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED

WILLENHALL
SHERLOCK CLOSE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style end town house
- Two bedrooms, one with built-in wardrobes
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Fitted kitchen inc oven and hob
- Rear lounge
- Guest cloakroom with wc
- Rear garden

£113,000 OFFERS

WILLENHALL
HILL ROAD

- Much improved extended three bedroom property
- Lounge and extended dining room
- Fitted breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Garage and block paved driveway
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Convenient location
- Viewing recommended

£112,500 OFFERS

PROPERTIES TO LET

Bow Street, Willenhall	2 bed	£395 pcm
Hawkswell Drive, Willehall	1 bed	£400 pcm
Gipsy Lane, Willenhall	2 bed	£450 pcm
Lawrence Street, Willenhall	3 bed	£450 pcm
Regent Street, Willenhall	2 bed	£450 pcm
Princethorpe Road, Willenhall	3 bed	£550 pcm
Davenport Road, Wednesfield	3 bed	£525 pcm
Raven Crescent, Wednesfield	2 bed	£550 pcm

BENTLEY, WALSALL
CUNNINGHAM ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed extended semi detached property
- Three bedrooms, all with wardrobes
- Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Spacious 19ft through lounge
- Extended sun room
- Breakfast kitchen/utility room
- Upstairs shower room
- Lovely established rear garden

£110,000 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED

SHORT HEATH
TENNYSON ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed improved traditional style end town house
- Three bedrooms
- UPVC double glazed windows, gas central heating
- 19ft through lounge
- Superb refitted kitchen including oven & hob
- Utility/playroom
- First floor bathroom with shower
- Garden to the rear

£109,500 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED

WILLENHALL
SHEPWELL GREEN

- Conveniently located end town house style property
- Deceptively spacious accommodation
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority UPVC double glazed windows
- 18ft dining kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Gardens to front and rear
- Ideal for a first time purchaser or young family

£89,950 NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL
CLOTHIER STREET

- Spacious Victorian style end terraced property in convenient location
- Two bedrooms
- Upstairs bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen
- Rear garden
- Gas central heating
- Part UPVC double glazed windows
- Ideal first time purchase

£89,500 NO CHAIN

WALSALL
MOORSIDE GARDENS

- Pleasant spacious first floor flat
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- 14ft lounge
- Well equipped fitted kitchen inc oven & hob
- Refitted bathroom with shower & separate wc
- Communal gardens & outside store

£78,950 OFFERS

WILLENHALL
LAKESIDE CLOSE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style semi
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority UPVC double glazed windows
- Full width rear lounge
- Fitted dining kitchen inc oven & hob
- Upstairs bathroom with shower fitment
- Ample off road parking

£56,000 FOR 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP

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Bloxwich
Revival Street
- Four Bedroom Detached
- Kitchen●Through Lounge / Diner
- Bedroom En-Suite●Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating●Double Glazing
- Garage & Driveway●Sorry no DHSS

£750 PCM

Walsall
Segundo Close
- Three Bedroom Detached
- Lounge●Kitchen/Diner
- Double Glazing
- Rear Garden●Garage
- Conservatory●Sorry No DHSS

£575 PCM

NEW

Walsall
Flinkford Close
- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception rooms
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Single Garage
- Sorry No DHSS

£550 PCM

NEW

Rushall
Springfields
- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Lounge with laminate flooring
- New Fitted Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing/ G.C.Heating
- Rear Garden●Sorry No DHSS or Pets

£550 PCM

Bloxwich
Wolverhampton Road
- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner●Bathroom
- Central Heating●Part Double Glazing
- Large Rear Garden●Sorry No DHSS

£525 PCM

Bloxwich
Drake Road
- Three Bedroom House
- Lounge●Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen●Conservatory
- Double Glazing&Central Heating
- Shower Room●DHSS Accepted

£500 PCM

Walsall
Blackthorne Road
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge●Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Part Central Heated
- Double Glazing●Off Road Parking
- Front & Rear Gardens●Sorry No DHSS

£495 PCM

Walsall
Roberts Road
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge●Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom
- Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens●Garage
- Off Road Parking●DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM

Bloxwich
Evesham Crescent
- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Lounge Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

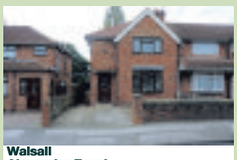
£475 PCM

Bloxwich
Nursery Road
- Three Bedrooms Semi
- Lounge●Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Downstairs W.C.
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking●DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM

Bloxwich
Blakenall Lane
- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Kitchen●Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Further Room with W.C & Wash Basin
- Gardens●DHSS Considered

£475 PCM



Walsall
Alexandra Road
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating●D.Glazing
- Bathroom●Off Road Parking
- Gardens●DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM

Walsall
Manorhouse Close
- One Bed Apartment
- Lounge●Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom
- Double Glazing●Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Sorry No DHSS,Pets or Smokers

£450 PCM

Walker Road
Blakenall Heath,Guild Court
- Two Bedroom Apartments
- Lounge/Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM

REDUCED

Walsall
Bloxwich Road
- Two Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Lounge●Dining Room
- Fully Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom
- Double Glazing●Central Heating
- Rear Garden●Sorry No DHSS

£450 PCM

Walsall
Paddington Walk
- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Lounge Kitchen/Diner
- Cloakroom W.C.●Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing●Central Heating

£450 PCM

Bloxwich
Foster Street
- Two Bedroom Terrace
- One Reception Room
- Reception Hallway
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM

NEW

Walsall
Cairns Street
- Two Bed Refurbished Property
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted

£430 PCM

Walsall
Lewis Street
- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Double Glazing●Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM

Leamore
Leamore Lane
- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen●Fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM

Walsall
Kent Street
- Three Bed Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen●Bathroom
- Rear Garden●DHSS Accepted
- Sorry no Pets or Smokers

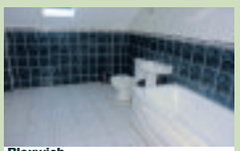
£425 PCM

Bloxwich
Millfield Avenue
- Two Bedroom Flat
- Lounge●Kitchen
- Bathroom●Separate W.C.
- Gas Central Heating
- Communal Grounds

£425 PCM

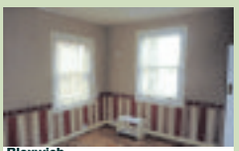
Walsall
Cairns Street
- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Being Refurbed throughout
- Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden●DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM



Bloxwich
High Street
- One Bedroom Flat
- Large Lounge●Kitchen
- Large Bathroom
- Double Glazing●Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking●DHSS Accepted

£400 PCM

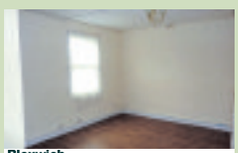


Bloxwich
High Street
- Two Bedroom Flat
- Bloxwich High St Location
- Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
- Stairs to Second Bedroom
- Off Road Parking●DHSS Accepted

£400 PCM

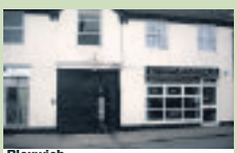
Walsall
Crown Lofts
- Modern Studio Flat
- Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Heating●Balcony
- Sorry No DHSS

£375 PCM



Bloxwich
High Street
- One Bedroom Flat
- Lounge●Shower Room
- Kitchen●Electric Heating
- Double Glazing●Parking Space To Rear
- DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



Bloxwich
Harrison Street
- One Bedroom Flat
- Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- Electric heating
- DHSS Accepted

£350 PCM

Walsall
Moat Road
- Two Bed Flat above retail premises
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Shower Room
- DHSS Accepted

£350 PCM

Bloxwich
Elmore Green Road
- One Bedroom Flat
- Lounge●Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£325 PCM

Bloxwich
Barracks Lane
- One Bedroom Flat
- Lounge●Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing●Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£300 PCM

Rushall
Lichfield Road
- One Bedroom Flats
- Lounge●Kitchen
- Bathroom●Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£300 PCM

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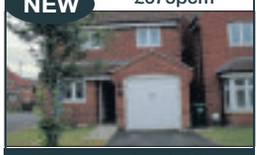
NEW £695 pcm

Penryn Road

- A splendid 3 bed detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Recently installed bathroom
- Seperate WC and shower room
- Garage, Drivewat and rear garden

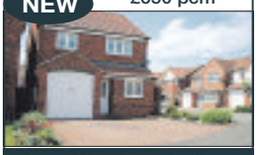
NEW £675pcm



Asterway, Tamebridge

- 3 Bed modern datached property
- Spacious open plan lounge/dinning
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family bathroom,Master en-suite and WC
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- Access to garage

NEW £650 pcm



Aster Way, Tamebridge

- A modern 3 bed detached property
- Spacious Lounge
- Fitted kitchen with some appliances
- Upstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Master en-suite
- Downstairs WC

NEW £450 pcm

Lime Street, Chuckery

- Modern 2 bed mid terrace property
- Spacious reception room
- Fitted ktichen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom
- Fully enclosed rear garden and patio area
- off road parking and DSS accepted

NEW £450 pcm

Ryle street, Walsall

- 3 Bed semi detached property
- 1 Spacious recpetion room
- Good size fitted kitchen
- Spacious family bathroom
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- Conservatory and DSS accepted

NEW £440 pcm

Camebridge, Caldmore

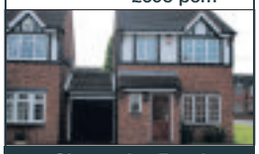
- A 2 bed mid terrace property
- 2 Good size reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- DSS accepted

NEW £225 pcm

Caldmore Road,

- A first floor studio apartment
- 1 Spacious lounge and bedroom area
- Fitted kitchen with cooker
- Bathroom
- Double glazed throughout
- DSS Accepted

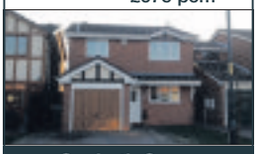
£695 pcm



Gleneagles Road

- A modern 3 bed link detached property
- 1 spacious reception room
- New fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- New upstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Guest WC, Driveway and Garage

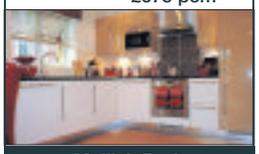
£675 pcm



Seaforth Grove

- A stylish modern detached property
- Good sized living room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- 3 Spacious bedrooms one with en-suite
- Integral garage and driveway
- Conservatory

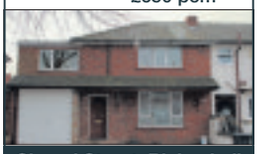
£675 pcm



Mellish Park

- A luxury 2 bed ground floor apartment
- Open planned lounge/kitchen
- Modern kitchen with integral appliances
- Designer bathroom and en-suite
- Double Glazing throughout
- Allocated secure parking

£650 pcm



Chapel Street, Blakenhall

- A 4 bed semi detached property
- 1 spacious reception room
- Fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Guest WC, Driveway and DSS accepted

£600 pcm

Tasker Street, Walsall

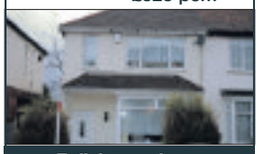
- A 5 double bedroom terraced property
- Consists of 2 large reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen with units
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- DSS accepted and a large rear garden

£550 pcm

Barker Street, Oldbury

- A traditional 3 bed mid terrace
- 2 Spacious reception rooms
- A modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden, DSS accepted

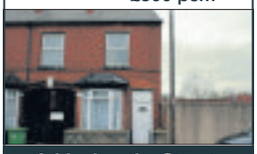
£525 pcm



Follyhouse Lane

- A 3 bed semi detached property
- 1 spacious through lounge
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Guest WC, Rear garden, DSS accepted

£500 pcm



Addenbrooke Street,

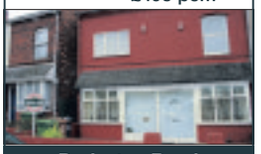
- A spacious 3 bed end terrace property
- Spacious front and rear reception rooms
- Large modern fitted kitchen
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- DSS accepted and Refurbished throughout

£500 pcm

Addenbrooke Street,

- A spacious 3 bed end terraced property
- 2 Spacious reception rooms front and rear
- Large modern fitted kitchen
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Gas central heating and double glazing throughout
- Dss accepted and Refurbished throughout

£495 pcm



Darlaston Road

- An excellent 3 bed end terrace
- A spacious lounge
- Large modern ktichen diner with cooker
- Downstairs bathroom with electric shower
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- Shared garden, comes part furnished

£495 pcm

Beacon Street, Chuckery

- A 3 bed end terrace property
- 2 reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted

£495 pcm

Prince Street, Pleck

- A detached 3 bed property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Rear yard DSS accepted

£495 pcm

Pleck Road, Pleck

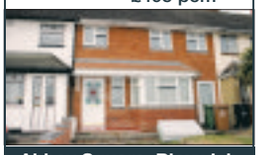
- A re-furbished 3 bed mid terrace
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central heating and Double Glazing
- Rear garden DSS accepted

£495 pcm

Basset Street, Alumwell

- A 3 bed semi detached property
- 1 Good size reception room
- A good size fitted kitchen
- Shower room and bathroom
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- Rear garden, DSS accepted

£495 pcm



Abbey Square, Bloxwich

- A 3 bed mid terrace property
- 1 spacious reception room
- Fitted family kitchen/diner
- Upstairs bathroom with seperate WC
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted

£475pcm

Lord Street, Palfrey

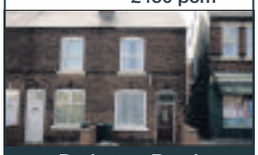
- A re-decorated 2 doube bed end terrace
- 2 Spacious reception rooms
- A modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs fmaily bathroom with shower
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden, DSS accepted

£475 pcm

Scarborough Road, Pleck

- A traditional 3 bed mid terrace
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted

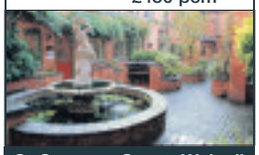
£450 pcm



Darlaston Road

- A traditional 3 bed end terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted

£450 pcm



St Georges Court, Walsall

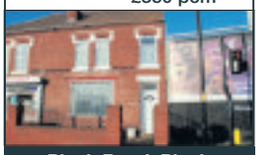
- A Superb 1 bed 2nd floor apartment
- Open planned lounge/kitchen area
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant family bathroom
- Parking space and views of the town
- DSS accepted

£395 pcm

North Street, Walsall

- A refurbished 1 bed apartment
- Open planned Lounge/Kitchen
- New fitted kitchen with cooker
- New family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Dss accepted

£350 pcm



Pleck Road, Pleck

- A 1 bed ground floor apartment
- 1 Double bed room
- A good size reception room
- A modern fitted kitchen/diner
- A spacious family bathroom
- Gas central heating and Double glazing

£325 pcm

Ablewell Street, Walsall

- A 2nd floor apartment
- 1/2 bedrooms divided by opening doors
- A spacious lounge
- Pleasant family bathroom
- Modern fitted Kitchen
- Single glazed and gas central heating

£225 pcm

Ablewell Street, Walsall

- A part furnished studio apartment
- Compromising of lounge/bedroom
- White fitted bathroom
- Fitted kitchen with cooker and fridge freezer
- Gas central heating
- Close to walsall town centre

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Auction
Monday 10th December at 6.30pm precisely
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For Sale by Public Auction on Monday 10th December @ 6.30pm to be held at Banks's Stadium, Bescot Crescent, Walsall, WS1 4SA
(subject to prior sale and conditions)

LOT 1 — 33 Foster Street, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 8EQ
Viewing: 28th November and 4th December all at 10.00pm

This modern mid terraced residence offers double glazing and warm air central heating and is situated close to Darlastonc centre. Ideal for first time buyer or investor. The property briefly comprises: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Area, Kitchen Area, Rear Lobby, W.C., Rear Porch, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Gardens.

Guide Price: £40,000-£50,000

LOT 2 — 155, Well Lane, Walsall, West Midlands, WS3 1JU
Viewing: 28th November and 4th December all at 12.45pm

Traditionally styled semi detached property on a corner plot in need of complete modernisation and improvement. Close to all amenities the property would suit an investor or builder. The property briefly comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Side Lobby, W.C., Two Stores, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway, Fore and Rear Gardens.

Guide Price: £35,000-£40,000

LOT 3 — 146, Swan Gardens, Erdington, Birmingham, West Midlands,
Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers on 0121 289 3838

A first floor studio apartment situated on a popular residential development within easy reach of Erdington centre. Currently let on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy for 6 months commencing 27th June 2012 at £350.00 per calendar month. Lounge, Kitchen, Lobby and Shower Room.

Guide Price: £29,000- £39,000

LOT 4 — 155, Greets Green Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 9ET
Viewing: 1st December 11.00am and 6th December 2.30pm.

Traditional mid terraced residence with gas fired central heating and double glazing, ideal investment opportunity. The property in brief comprises:- Porch, Lounge, Lobby, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Fore and Rear Gardens, Garage.

Guide Price: £35,000 PLUS

LOT 5 — 4, Foundry Lane, Pelsall, West Midlands, WS3 4QH
Viewing: 28th November and 4th December all at 1.15pm

Conveniently located in a popular residential area, this mid terraced residence offers well planned gas centrally heated accommodation ideally suited to a first time buyer or investor. The property briefly comprises:- Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom and Rear Garden.

Guide Price: £45,000-£55,000

LOT 6 — 53, Foxdale Drive, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3GZ
Viewing: By appointment with Auctioneers on 0121 289 3838

This purpose built apartment situated on a pleasant residential development would make an ideal purchase for first time buyer or investor. The property in brief comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two bedrooms, Bathroom, Communal Gardens and One Allocated Parking Space.

Guide Price: £30,000-£40,000

LOT 7 — 35 , Swan Street, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 2ES
Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneer on 0121 289 3838

This delightfully appointed semi detached gas centrally heated and double glazed home would make an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor, being conveniently located close to Russells Hall Hospital. The property in brief comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate W.C., Garage, Drive and Rear Garden.

Guide Price: £80,000- £90,000

LOT 8 — 17, Peach Avenue, Darlaston, West Midlands, WS10 8TU
Viewing: 28th November and 4th December all at 9.30am

Traditionally styled double glazed semi detached residence in need of modernisation and improvement. In brief the property comprises:- Enclosed Porch, Lounge, Sitting Room, Bathroom, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, Fore and Rear Gardens.

Guide Price: £30,000- £35,000

LOT 9 — 4, Sundial Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham, West Midlands, B43 6PD
Viewing: 28th November and 4th December all at 10.45am.

This traditionally styled semi detached property is situated in a prime residential location just off Scott Arms and is set on a corner plot lending itself for potential for extension subject to the necessary Planning Permission and Building Regulation approval. The accommodation which boasts the benefit of gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing has been extended at ground floor level to include large wet room. Offering scope for further improvement the property comprises: Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Open Plan Dining Kitchen, Wet Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Garden and Detached Garage.

Guide Price: £130,000- £150,000

LOT 10 — 71, Station Road, Aldridge, West Midlands, WS9 0BW
Viewing: 28th November and 4th December all at 1.45pm

This former hairdressing salon, with living accommodation above, is conveniently located close to Aldridge village. The ground floor shop area has basins (and other equipment is available subject to negotiations after the sale) The premises also lends itself to conversion back to a residential dwelling (subject to planning). The property comprises:- Salon, Kitchen, W.C., Living Room, Bedroom, En-Suite, Attic Room.

Guide Price: £70,000- £80,000

LOT 11 — 140, Sandon Road , Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 3HG
Viewing: There are no viewings available on this property.

Traditionally styled brick and tile mid terraced residence subject to a Regulated Tenancy going back over 50 years at a rent of £12.50 per week. The property briefly comprises:- Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Pantry, Two Bedrooms, Box Room, Bathroom, Store, Fore and Rear Gardens.

Guide Price: £30,000- £35,000

LOT — 27 Weston Crescent, Aldridge, West Midlands, WS9 0HA
Viewing: 28th November and 4th December at 2.15 pm

Traditional brick and tile semi detached residence offering tremendous scope for further improvement. Situated close to Aldridge Village, the property comprises: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Area, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, Garage, Fore and Rear Garden.

Guide price £135,000 - £145,000

LOT 13 — 7, Wolverhampton Road , Bloxwich, West Midlands, WS3 2EY
Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneer on 01922 615222

A commercial investment opportunity representing a fast food take away with A3/A5 use, with separate self contained flat above. The whole currently let on a 6 year lease from 16th May 2012 at £800.00 per calendar month. The property briefly comprises:- Shop, Preperation Area, Kitchen, Lobby and W.C. To the first floor is the following:- Lounge, Three Further Rooms and a Bathroom.

Guide Price: £70,000- £80,000

LOT 14 — 83, Westbrook Avenue, Aldridge, West Midlands, WS9 0BZ
Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers 01922 615222

Situated close to Aldridge Village, this traditionally styled semi detached residence offers well planned accommodation offering scope for further improvement. The property briefly comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Breakfast Area, Kitchen, Side Lobby, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore Garden with Parking and Rear Garden.

Guide Price: £70,000- £80,000

LOT 15 — 18, Beech Court, Birmingham Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 2NQ
Viewing: 28th November and 4th December all at 11.45am.

This purpose built first floor flat would make an ideal purchase for an investor and is situated in the popular development just off the Birmingham Road within easy access of Walsall Town Centre. The property briefly comprises:- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom.

Guide Price: £40,000- £50,000

LOT 16 — 29, Green Leigh, Erdington, Birmingham, West Midlands, B23 5QL
Viewing: 4th December all at 11.30am. And 17th November at 2pm.

First floor studio apartment ideally suited to an investor situated on a popular development and comprising:- Hall, Open Plan Lounge/ Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom and Communal Gardens.

Guide Price: £30,000- £40,000

LOT 17 — 105, West Bromwich Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 3HP
Viewing: There are no viewings available on this property.

A conveniently located traditionally styled Victorian mid terraced residence, currently let on an 12 month Assured Shorthold Tenancy dating from 1st August 2012 at £475.00 per calendar month. The property briefly comprises:- Through Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Lobby, W.C., Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Gardens.

Guide Price: £50,000- £60,000

LOT 18 — 3, Follyhouse Lane , Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 3EL
Viewing: 28th November and 4th December all at 11.15am.

A traditionally styled three bedroomed semi detached property situated in a popular residential area offering tremendous scope for further improvement and modernisation, ideal for an investor or builder. With the benefit of part gas fired central heating and double glazing, the property is set back from the road behind a small foregarden and comprises of the following: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Lobby, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Fore and Rear Gardens.

Guide Price: £50,000- £60,000

LOT 19 — 218 , Sutton Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS5 3AH
Viewing: 28th November and 4th December all at 2.45pm

Traditionally styled gas centrally heated and part double glazed semi detached property situated in a desirable residential area offering tremendous scope for further improvement. The property briefly comprises:- Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Dining Room, Lounge, Breakfast Room, Kitchen, Lobby, W.C., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, Fore and Rear Gardens.

Guide Price: £150,000- £170,000

LOT 20 — 24, Telford Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS2 7LD
Viewing: 28th November and 4th December all at 12.15pm

A mid town house residence with part double glazing in need of complete modernisation and improvement and is conveniently located making it an ideal investment for a builder or landlord. The property briefly comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Lobby, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate W.C., Fore and Rear Gardens.

Guide Price: £25,000- £30,000

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

New Skoda Rapid is practical and a great performer

Look hard at the front of the new Skoda Rapid and what does it remind you of?

Is it a simply styled, modern looking car or a lucky four-leafed clover, thanks to the way the head and fog lights are positioned?

If you're a car buyer, it may be the first description; if a designer of the newcomer from the Czech Republic, it will be the second.

You may conclude from this divide that car designers live on another planet (the rear lights are inspired by the Czech glass industry, apparently), but you can't doubt the passion that went into shaping this mid-price family car.

The Rapid is designed (very thoroughly) to sit above the smaller Fabia and below the larger Octavia, a car that's going to grow in size and stature when the next one arrives some time in 2013.

It majors on practicality, with enough room in the rear for adults to feel comfortable and a simply huge boot hidden nicely in a shape that looks somewhere between practical hatch and posher saloon at the back.

By Ian Donaldson

Underneath are familiar bits of suspension from other cars in the VW Group and under the bonnet you'll discover a choice of diesel and petrol engines also shared with cars bearing VW, Seat and Audi badges.

The result of this hidden commonality is twofold; it means the use of mechanical bits built in huge numbers and therefore honed for business and, thanks to economies of scale, relatively inexpensive to make.

That means, in Skoda's case perhaps especially, that you get a lot of car for your money. The new Rapid starts at £12,900 but you fancy most buyers will find the near £1,000 needed to climb to SE grade, bringing with it alloy wheels, air conditioning and trip computer missing from the bargain basement S version.

That means the £14,650, 1.2 litre petrol engined car tested here, third from bottom in a price range that levels off with the £17,850 of the 1.6 diesel Elegance model, does not feel remotely like a car bought on price alone.

One Skoda person at the launch of the car (definitely not a designer) said customers 'have had enough of this shiny, bling, bling stuff.' The Rapid is low on bling but high on a feeling, shared across the VW Group cars, that solid quality matters most for long-term satisfaction.

If the outside of the Rapid is crisp and modern in a low-key way, the interior is simple, with obvious attention to detail, easily read instruments but not a bit of bling to be seen. You may well think that's a good thing.

Easy

A much dearer diesel model tried before the petrol powered car tested here certainly made for an easy drive, with fewer gear changes and a creditable 64mpg on the trip computer at journey's end.

The smaller petrol engine tested here needed more revs and returned 47mpg (and promised 114mph and 0-62mph in 11.2 seconds) but still felt a much bigger unit than the spec sheet indicated. Sweet and willing around town, it pulled this largish car along the motorway without breaking sweat.

The diesel rode the side road ripples better than the lighter petrol model, but not enough to matter, while the petrol engined version tackled corners with a bit more enthusiasm.

Standard spec on the SE here includes the air con and alloys already mentioned, along with heated door mirrors, electric front windows and height-adjustable driver's seat.

And every Rapid shows one design touch: a plastic ice scraper hidden in the fuel filler flap. Practical as well as clever.

The new Skoda Rapid. Prices range from £12,900 to £17,850

Groundbreaking upholstery and a touchpad navigation system, just two of the additions to the Lexus

It's advance all areas with new breakthrough Lexus

LEXUS has introduced a high-specification Advance model to the CT200h range, bringing additional equipment and impressive value.

The Advance slots into the CT 200h line-up just above the regular SE grade model and brings with it a new integrated satellite navigation system, cruise control, rain-sensing wipers, a folding function for the electrically adjustable door mirrors, reversing camera, auto-dimming rear-view mirror with integrated parking monitor and metallic paint.

Despite the extra equipment, its on-the-road price is just an additional £500 compared to the SE, at £24,495.

The Advance also introduces Tahara, a supple and durable new upholstery that is an attractive alternative to leather. It weighs half as much as leather and is less harmful to the environment to make, generating 65 per cent less CO2 and no potentially damaging volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

The new model also introduces the MoveOn navigation system, which can be operated using a touchpad integrated in the centre console .

MoveOn also enables access to Live information services, using a 3G connection to a sim card that is built into the system, avoiding the need for a mobile phone link.

Customers enjoy free access for the first year to the Live services, which include TomTom Local Search, weather forecast, mobile speed cameras and HD traffic data. Thereafter an annual subscription is payable.

The Lexus CT200h Advance is available to order now with a price tag of £24,495, with first deliveries to customers before the end of 2012.

Changes to speeding laws could soon be on the way

Caught on camera – driving at speeds over 90 mph can lead to an appearance before magistrates

PLANS have been announced by the Government to raise speed limits for HGVs, allowing them to potentially travel at 45mph or even 50mph on faster roads where the current limit is just 40mph.

While the financial and time-saving benefits are obvious, the cycling lobbies are, perhaps understandably, unhappy, suggesting that the change will result in more injuries and deaths.

Combine that with the mooted proposal to adopt EU legislation of an automatic assumption of responsibility of fault with the driver where there is a collision with a bicycle and a larger vehicle, and you have a recipe for disaster.Commit a motoring offence at the most serious end of the scale, such as death by dangerous driving, and it is treated, quite rightly, as a severe criminal offence and will be dealt with as such.

Yet things such as speeding, running a red light or even something as potentially trivial as performing an illegal U-turn will net you three points and a fine, all of which effectively happens outside of the criminal justice system.

But there also exists a middle ground, where the upper end of the motoring offences scale starts to blur into the criminal system.

Get caught speeding above 90mph and rather than getting a fixed penalty the prosecuting constabulary can choose to send you to the magistrate.

You will have to make your case and while circumstances can be offered, you are at the mercy of the magistrate's discretion. Get banned, even for days rather than weeks, and the effect on your life can be dramatic.

If the Government's message is that speeding is wrong and dangerous, then we should be encouraged to drive to the best of our ability, not simply be punished for failing to do so.

A year's offence-free motoring could be rewarded by 'positive' points on your driving licence, and with backing from the industry that could net you a discount on your insurance premiums, or perhaps even an upgraded driving licence to reflect five or 10 years' worth of trouble-free motoring.

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Boot liners, roof rack and cycle rack all feature on the Jaguar XF estate

The practical Sportsbrake's interior, plus a range of stylish accessories

Now Jaguar producing new estate of elegance

IF there's one thing prospective Jaguar buyers have been missing, it's an estate car.

A traditional load-lugger has been conspicuously absent from the firm's range, and an omission its rivals have capitalised upon for many years.

Given the recent change of ownership from Ford to Tata and the slew of new or revised products that have come from both Jaguar and Land Rover in recent years – both brands are under the same roof – you could excuse the firm for being a little busy.

By Iain Dooley

The patience of those prospective buyers has finally been rewarded, as early 2012 saw Jaguar unveil its long awaited XF estate car – the Sportbrake.

For a company with apparently minimal experience making estate cars, the end product is thoughtfully constructed and styled.

Looks-wise, the XF wagon's profile is elegant yet functional, while there's never any impression that the load-lugging bit is merely window dressing.

On paper the XF Sportbrake promises to be versatile and practical.

Boasting a near-flat-fold rear seat mechanism including through-load flap and 60-40 fold split, total volume is a competitive 1,675 litres.

Headroom

Factor in some extra space below the boot floor, a fraction more rear headroom, plus a host of options to make life easy – dividers, boot liners, roof racks and boxes, tow bar, cycle racks, powered tailgate – and it's clear that Jaguar is keen to tempt buyers away from established cars from Mercedes, BMW and Audi.

With everything save the rear doors new from the B-pillar back to the uncluttered tailgate, the XF Sportbrake is a bold statement of intent from Jaguar considering that the car will be targeted at only the European market for the foreseeable future.

Unlike the saloon and SUV-centric American and Asian markets, European buyers have a soft spot for estates.

And they also like diesel engines, which is why this XF is diesel-only.

For the cost – and tax-conscious buyers, there's a 2.2-litre four-cylinder unit in 163 and 200 horsepower trim, plus Jaguar's 3.0-litre V6 unit offered in 240 and 275 horsepower trim.

Predictably the smaller engine will appeal to company car drivers and the latter to private buyers, and there's a noticeable uplift in driver appeal if you go for the V6. Smooth, refined and plenty quick enough in the real world, it's an engine that suits the car's laidback approach to performance.

Of course, the bean counters will prefer the 2.2-litre unit. Although it uses the same eight-speed auto gearbox as the V6, this is a car that doesn't like to be rushed and is more at home being driven at a relaxed pace.

That said, both cars gain self-levelling rear suspension to ensure a safe and level attitude regardless of what's in the back and how enthusiastic you are at the wheel, while the optional Adaptive Dynamics system boasts computer-controlled dampers to further reduce pitch and roll when on the move – something the keen drivers will no doubt welcome.

With all this focus on the XF's rear, it's easy to forget designer Ian Callum's 2012 revisions – lights, grille, bumpers – that do much to ensure the car maintains its stylistic edge over its more fussy and distinctly rivals.

Popular

And although decidedly minimalist by current standards, the few subtle changes made to the cabin's switchgear and trim options have also added a welcome new layer of sophistication.

A popular car in saloon guise since its introduction, this Sportbrake variant is proof that Jaguar's design and engineering talent isn't restricted to saloons and sports cars.

This car's thoughtful and fuss-free exterior is matched by a practical interior, plus a range of useful and stylish accessories.

That the Sportbrake retains the driving appeal of its saloon cousin is the icing on the cake, and further illustrates the company's no-compromise approach to delivering a car designed to appeal to the head and the heart in equal measure.

Bumper to bumper

Jaguar XF Sportbrake 3.0 Diesel S Portfolio

Engine: 3litre diesel unit developing 275bhp
Transmission: Eight-speed manual transmission as standard, driving the rear wheels
Performance: Maximum speed 155mph, 0-62mph: 6.6 seconds
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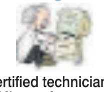

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(T&C's below)

PETITE 50yr old likes reading, gardening, outdoors, walking, cycling, seeks companion, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393160**

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TINA young attractive 27yr old single female looking for older friendly loving male for adult fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397563**

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PAULA 37, WLTM male companion for meals out, social drinking, weekends away, hopefully leading to a meaningful friendship with benefits! Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398503**

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398349**

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127**

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SUE confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397485**

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CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837**

NATASHA single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719**

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JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407**

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTM male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165**

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317**

ALICIA 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059**

I'M Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395051**

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SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979**

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTM similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125**

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325**

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57YR old male, good looking, seeking female for fun times and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397463**

GARY 39, seeks female, 30-50 for LTR and fun. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398747**

FRIENDLY guy 49, tall, fit, GSOH, attractive, seeks lady for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399091**

TAYLOR 50, tall, athletic, GSOH, WLTM female, attractive, curvy for friendship, maybe more, food, communication, evenings out, travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399067**

IAN 60, seeks active Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun and mutual pleasure. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399003**

DAVID 40, genuine, down to earth, seeking someone for nights out and great times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398889**

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, bike rides, country walks and photography, seeks likeminded female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

RAYMOND 6ft, mid 70's, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks caring lady for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398695**

PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397679**

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INDIAN male, UK born, seeks white English female, 35-45 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397509**

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JOE 45, GSOH, attractive, medical professional, seeks female for daytime fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396671**

GOOD looking male, early 50's, 6ft, farmer, outgoing, fun loving, seeking attractive fun loving female, 25-35 who enjoys travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393340**

63YR old male, fit, likes cooking/baking, tennis, seeks female, 37-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398825**

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59YR old male, 5ft 8ins, seeks younger lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392908**

IAN 44, single dad, loving, caring, honest, seeks similar female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392874**

TALL dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380**

PAUL 47, short brown hair, blue/green eyes, 6ft, slim, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393456**

TALL male, 64, vitality and brain, seeks lady for discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398235**

MALE fun, outgoing, easy-going, seeking female for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393346**

55YR old male, likes sports, film, nights in, seeking female, 30-45 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398049**

GAY SINGLES

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MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892**

GAY male, 34, slim, toned, seeking older guy for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395735**

MALE 44, seeking male, 18-23 for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391626**

BI male, divorced, young, fit 50, own home/business, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391849**

MALE 58, youthful, serene nature, understanding, loyal, honest, seeks similar mature female for everlasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391833**

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3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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public & legal notices

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council.

Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning

Representations can be made online, email: planningservices@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Development affecting a Public Footpath
12/1532/FL
Mr B Blincow
Single storey rear extension.
AT: 29 ST. MICHAELS CLOSE,WALSALL,WS3 4JH

Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990. (Section 73). Applications Affecting a Conservation Area and/or a Listed Building
12/1531/AD
Lloyds Banking Group
FOR: 9 Externally illuminated fascia signs (using existing down lighters), 1 internally illuminated projecting sign, 5 non-illuminated cannisters- brand logo, 1 externally mounted vinyl overlay and 1 internally mounted vinyl overlay.
AT: 41-43 BRIDGE STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1LQ

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(A)
THE M54 MOTORWAY (JUNCTIONS 1 TO 2) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (NO.2) ORDER 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport has made an Order on the M54 Motorway in the County of Staffordshire, to allow resurfacing and associated work to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close –

(a) the westbound carriageway of the M54 between its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 1 and its junction with the entry slip road at Junction 2; and
(b) the slip road leading to the westbound carriageway of the M54 at Junction 1.

Work will be carried out overnight between 20.00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Tuesday 11 December 2012 and continue for five nights. The Order will come into force on 4 December 2012.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer will be exempt from the closures. A diversion route via A460, M6, A5 and A449 will be well signed.

For further enquiries please contact Purnima Kaul on 0121 678 8586.

Mike Lloyd A Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency

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PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Heads are held high after Pics' heavy loss

Wrexham 5 Rushall Olympic 0

PICS left a wet Wrexham with heads high despite a five-goal FA Trophy reverse.

The ex-Football League side went into the tie second in the Conference table.

Two goals in rapid succession and a red card on the hour undid Pics.

In the 12th minute Rushall's Ahmed Obeng forced Declan Walker to concede a corner. An in-swinger from Jon Haynes was met by a deft back-header from Dave Walker that Cameroon keeper Joslain Mayebi tipped over.

On 14 minutes the Dragons played in from the right flank, Kyle Haynes failed to deal with it and gifted possession to player-manager Andy Morrell who tapped in from close range.

Within two minutes the former Coventry and Blackpool front-runner applied a low finish from just inside the box beyond Gemmell.

Deflected

On 21 minutes Dave Walker's drive was repelled by Mayebi then Obeng twice came close before an effort by Hakeem Islam was deflected for a corner.

Nine minutes before the interval, Pics skipper Grant Beckett's drive was flicked on by a defensive header and dropped just over the bar for a corner.

On the hour the persistent Islam chased down an opponent. The Wrexham man went down and the referee gave Islam a second yellow.

Within six minutes Rushall found themselves in trouble as Morrell fed Ogleby through the right channel. He cut in and found Adrian Cieslewicz who was able to push the ball home from barely a yard out.

With two minutes left, Morrell claimed his hat-trick when Gemmell dropped a corner at his feet.

In the third minute of injury time Declan Walker powered in a fifth goal.

Football results

Lichfield & Walsall

Ask Motors Premier: Burntwood Dragons A 2 Burntwood Star 3; Lichfield Social A 5 Erdington Star 3.

Rio Driving Tuition League 1: AC Lions 1 Hazelwood Ath 0; Burntwood 6 Hussey Arms 2; Rushall 1 Prince of Wales 2.

Stretton Paving League 2: Cannock Wood 4 Duke of Wellington 0; Paradise Lounge 0 Ros Park 3; Shire Oak Saints Warriors 1 Freemans B 0.

Compa-Tec League 3: Kriss 1 Burntwood Dragons B 0; Bowman 4 Shelfield 2; Pheasey Ath 2 Cellar Door 5; Trent Valley Rvrs 3 Lichfield Soc B 6.

Sam Kimberley Cup Round 3: Ath Bridge 3 Chase Terrace Victoria 4; Cannock Social 7 Dosthill Rgrs 0; Railway Tavern 2 Lamb & Flag 4.

Walsall's Chris Mould, playing his 250th game, looks for support

Hosts lose their way in the mud

Walsall 10 Whitchurch 17

WALSALL narrowly failed to halt Whitchurch's winning streak on a wet and muddy Delves Road pitch.

The visitors had the benefit of a strong breeze in the first half and scored three well-worked tries from close-range lineouts in this Midlands One clash.

Lock forward Tom Hollins got the first after 10 minutes and his partner in the second row, Ollie Bates, was driven over for the other two. Both scores came in the final 10 minutes of the half.

Conditions deteriorated rapidly as a cold wind and driving rain made constructive rugby difficult, although the hosts seemed to have got themselves into quite a good position by the interval.

A well-taken try by prop forward Simon Weaver after a strong carry by No.8 Daniel Simpson cut the deficit after 12 minutes.

Matt Wood, who converted, put over a penalty just before the interval to cut the gap to seven points. Walsall had the wind and rain advantage after the interval but most of the field was a sea of mud and securing and holding possession was a real problem.

They declined kickable penalty opportunities and opted for attacking scrums, lineouts and quick penalties. Their set-piece was not as effective as recently and four enforced changes must have caused disruption.

Absentees included prop forward Ian Bradshaw and lock forward Dave Merlin. Both played vital roles in scrums and lineouts in last week's win. Walsall did go very close to scoring on about three occasions but somehow the visitors kept them at bay.

The game finished as the visitors pushed hard for a bonus-point try, which would have deprived the hosts of a deserved losing bonus point. No points were scored in the second half and credit has to be given to the teams and the referee for actually managing to get the game completed.

Walsall have a rest this week before they have their final three games of 2012.

Saddlers let winless wonders get a point

Walsall 1 Hartlepool 1

WALSALL remain their own worst enemy as they dropped two home points to cellar side Hartlepool.

Pushing the self-destruct button has been a staple feature for some time now. Against the visitors on Saturday they followed a well-worn path, ***writes Nick Mashiter.***

Once again the performance was there, but the result was lacking.

The Saddlers may have been pedestrian at times but they dominated a Hartlepool team who had come for what they could get.

Dean Holden's equaliser should have been a springboard to success. However, while the Saddlers laboured there were no extra rewards.

He spared Ashley Hemmings' blushes – after the winger's horror pass led to Evan Horwood's penalty opener – but that was all.

Uninspiring

Hartlepool arrived on their own 18-game winless run, without an away victory, and Walsall should have succeeded.

Any team who want to stay out of the relegation zone needs to beat sides as uninspiring as Hartlepool. That much is clear.

Walsall didn't and they leave themselves open for stinging criticism from the fans whose faith is beginning to dwindle.

A draw is a sorry indictment of where the Saddlers are and how fragile confidence has become since those heady September days.

They are left to point to the positives rather than the points, a fact Dean Smith was at pains to highlight after the winless run extended to 14 games. They are closing in on unwanted club record territory.

Within the dressing room, though, it is not a crisis. Football has a habit of creating disasters out of dips and while the Saddlers' dip is much longer than they would like there is still enough to suggest they can revive themselves.

Febian Brandy and Holden, deflated but not defeated, were honest enough to admit Walsall should have won – but realistic enough to insist all is not lost.

Walsall's Dean Holden battles to win the ball at the Banks's Stadium

Febian Brandy chases down Hartlepool's Paul Murray

Nine points could easily have been taken from the last three games yet they managed three. That they are unbeaten is a small comfort offering some hope.

A point kept them clear of the bottom four ahead of a two-week break which should be enough for the much-missed Florent Cuvelier to see off a hamstring injury and Craig Westcarr to integrate further.

The Chesterfield forward offers more presence and experience but it once again proved the Saddlers are shopping in the bargain basement.

There just isn't the money to go out and grab that 20-goal striker the whole division craves and Saturday's result is a direct reflection of that.

It's not ideal but Smith is doing a decent job just keeping the Saddlers out of the bottom four. Walsall are a developing club with a developing team.

That said, Hartlepool were there for the taking on Saturday with Walsall having only themselves to blame. They were so comfortable in the first half, without seriously upping the tempo.

Febian Brandy headed wide, Sam Mantom saw his shot blocked and Jamie Paterson directed the first of several attempts over.

But then Walsall self-destructed when, under no pressure, Hemmings' woefully short backpass was intercepted by Steve Howard and Aaron McCarey brought him down. Horwood scored from the spot and suddenly the Saddlers were behind despite their early dominance. Brandy headed wide again and Richard Taundry fired off-target but the clear-cut chance was reserved until three minutes after the break when Holden tapped in after Will Grigg's shot was saved.

The Saddlers had already replaced the struggling Hemmings for debutant Westcarr at the break and the goal should have inspired a win. Instead it was the prelude to an anti-climactic half where the Saddlers lacked the ability, nous and luck to end their winless run.

Brandy, Mantom and George Bowerman flashed efforts across goal but Scott Flinders was not called on to make a serious save.

Westcarr's free-kick was deflected wide as Walsall never convinced they had the quality to win it.

Decent performance. Bad result.

Hat-trick for Adam helps firsts to hit five

Leamington 1 Bloxwich 5

BLOXWICH men's hockey firsts went nap to claim victory at Leamington.

The home team started well but were denied goals by good saves from Bloxwich keeper Jamie Bayliss.

Bloxwich's Matthew Baldwin scored a reverse stick goal, followed by another by Adam Baldwin.

They seemed to relax and were punished by a good goal from Leamington but after that produced some of their best play of the season.

Adam Baldwin completed his hat-trick, Matthew Baldwin got a second and Dan Steatham also scored.

Bloxwich 2 Droitwich 0

The seconds got a hard-earned three points against a tough Droitwich side.

Although the home side dominated long periods of the game, the visitors' defence stayed strong and it took two pieces of superb skill from Liam Brazier to earn the points with two first half goals.

The second half continued very much the same as the first but, the home side were unable to add further goals.

Leaders are stunned by Straz strike

Stafford 1 Bloxwich 2

BLOXWICH ladies hockey firsts stunned Staffordshire Division One leaders Stafford.

Excellent play by Leanne Brittle and Jane Straz was followed by Vicky Jackson putting away a short corner.

Stafford responded, but attacks foundered on good defending by Jo Field, Sarah Duncombe and player of the match Lucy Page.

Bloxwich got a second as Emma Pearce won another short corner from which Straz scored. Stafford scored in the second half, but Bloxwich keeper Sarah Jones prevented more.

Ludlow 0 Bloxwich 2

The firsts followed up their league success with a win in the English Hockey Women's Vase.

They dominated play but could not put away their chances until Hayley Scott scored.

Emma Pearce crowned a good team performance with a second goal and Bloxwich now look forward to hosting Stratford in the next round in February.

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First bout back after 16 years delayed

FORMER Walsall professional boxer Peter Till's comeback after 16 years has been postponed – after his opponent pulled out injured.

Till was due in the ring last Friday at the Premier Suite, Cannock, for his first bout since 1996, to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK in memory of his father George, known as 'Fono'.

As opponent Brad Sanders suffered a back injury the show, with six fights billed, was postponed to January 30. Fans who have bought tickets can use them for the newdate.

Premier Suite owner Scott Murray said: "It's disappointing for Peter and his fans but injuries do happen to fighters, unfortunately.

"He is top of the bill so we have had to postpone the show."

Till said: "I am gutted, really, as I was both physically and mentally prepared for the fight. We have rescheduled the fight for the end of January so I will have to take it easy over Christmas to ensure I am ready and raring to go."

The ex-Midlands area lightweight champion won 30 of his 52 professional fights and was a former sparring partner to Barry McGuigan. The two Spurs fans have stayed in touch to chat about their side.

Till has kept fit after retirement and trained at Pleck and Walsall Wood Amateur Boxing Clubs.

Tickets for January's event start at £15 on 01543 572092 or 07432 142343.

Third tilt at title is ended

DANIEL BREEZE'S third national amateur boxing title attempt has ended.

The Walsall Wood ABC fighter went out in the semi-finals of the Clubs for Young People championships at the Nissan Sports and Social Club, Sunderland.

The two-time ABA Schoolboys champion lost a majority points decision to Knowsley Vale ABC's Callum O'Brian at 70kg in Class A, for boxers born in 1996.

The 16-year-old represented the chance of revenge for O'Brian after knocking him out of the Schoolboys two years ago and worked at close range for the win.

Breeze and trainer Shaun Healy's car broke down returning and they had to be towed home.

Boxer Luke Paddock

Luke told he must box way to the top

by Craig Birch

BLOXWICH'S Luke Paddock has been told to box his way to the top after being the latest pro graduate from Priory Park ABC, Dudley.

He becomes the fourth active paid fighter at the gym as he steps through the ropes at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tomorrow night.

The 20-year-old light-welterweight reached a Clubs for Young People national final as an amateur, but pulled out with a groin injury.

His unpaid Priory Park colleagues' latest club show is at Baggeridge Social Club on Sunday afternoon. Dan Carr was due for Paddock's pro bow but was cut above the eye against Martin Ward last weekend.

Trainer Paul Gough said: "Luke has wanted to try the pro game for a while now and we all think the world of him, he's a likeable character.

"Guided right, I think he will do alright. He's a skilful boxer with a good work ethic. He will be looking to box people. I don't want him to get in there and mix it up with people, that's not his style." Walsall's Christopher Keane joins Paddock on the bill for a cruiserweight six-rounder against Moses Matovu.

The 2009 senior ABA super heavyweight champion, 26, has won all seven of his contests, three by stoppage, since turning pro in 2009.

Ugandan-born Matovu, 36, based in Northern Ireland, has four wins and three draws on his record.

In the main event, the stakes are high for Rowley Regis' Jason Welborn when he tackles Hungarian visitor Janos Balogh over 10 rounds.

The Midlands welterweight champion may be in line for the first shot at Frankie Gavin's British title if he impresses. Gavin's fellow Brummie, talented light-middleweight Thomas Costello, supports the headline fight against Raimonds Sniedze over six rounds.

Redditch's Andrew Robinson, a graduate of Lions ABC in Dudley, is also in action against Trowbridge's Dan Phelps. For information and tickets, call the Civic box office on 0870 320 7000 or promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson on 07976 283 157.

MARK FINDS FORM FOR CHAMPIONSHIP

MARK JOYCE'S only UK Championship appearance provided him with both the highest and lowest points of his career, but the Walsall snooker player believes he can forget about the latter second time around.

It was two years ago that Joyce finally managed to reach the televised stages of the UK finals, beating six-time world champion Steve Davis 9-2 in qualifying to do so.

If people didn't know of him before then, they certainly sat up and took note as he downed Allister Carter and Judd Trump to reach the quarter-finals, where his adventure was ended by two-time world champion Mark Williams.

He ended that season climbing 16 places to his highest world ranking of 42, but his world came crashing down as he was attacked on a night out, leaving him with a broken elbow and a fractured eye socket.

Slipped

The 29-year-old had double vision and missed last year's UK Championships as he slipped down the rankings.

He said: "I knew my elbow would recover as it was my bridging arm.

"I was confident, and it wasn't until a couple of months after the accident and my elbow had healed a bit that I got double vision.

"I got double vision – I thought it was hard enough when you can see – and that was early 2011 and I lost four, five, six months.

"The first half of 2011 was a write-off and there was a knock on from that, I didn't pick up points and I went to the bottom.

"But I would like to think I am getting back close to my best.

"It can be tough as players are always playing strong but I am getting that little bit better. I am feeling confident."

Snooker

Joyce has rediscovered his form and beat Jamie Cope 6-4 to qualify for this year's tournament, which is being held in York on Saturday.

On his run to the quarter-finals in 2010 he got the better of Trump, and the two do battle again in round one of this year's competition.

Although Trump is more of a force now – defending champion and ranked number one in the world – Joyce says the same could be said about him.

"I have been pretty consistent and I try and treat every tournament the same now," he added. "I am not going into it under extra pressure just because it is the UK Championships.

"You can't go into it with the wrong mentality, it is hard to flick that switch and just play at your best at the best tournaments.

"This year I have got gradually better and better and I am excited about getting underway."

British Eurosport is showing 19 tournaments this season including the World Championship, UK Championship, the Masters and all ranking events. The channel is available on Sky (410/411) and Virgin Media (521/525) or online/on mobile via ***eurosport-player.co.uk***

Veteran rider Norman is delighted over hat-trick

Veteran Brownhills showjumper Norman Proffitt on Patent after their latest British championship success

BROWNHILLS showjumper Norman Proffitt is celebrating a hat-trick after landing all three of the country's championships for veteran riders, ***writes Celia Holmes.***

The 60-year-old already had the British Showjumping Association National Veteran Riders' title in the bag after victory at the Scope Festival at Stafford in September.

Now he has added both the Dodson & Horrell National Minor and Major championships, staged at Aintree International Equestrian Centre.

Proffitt, a builder and repairer of horse boxes, was repeating his Aintree success of last year aboard 15-year-old Patent.

The horse is owned by Audrey and Mark Evans, of Castell Sport Horses in Wales.

The horse on which he won the BSJA Veterans' crown is Valentino, owned by Nina Emory from Cannock.

"I'm delighted. There are three championships for veteran riders and I have them all," said Proffitt, who used to be a full-time showjumper, competing at all the country's major events.

"I decided to cut down my level of competition about 15 years ago, but I still enjoy it and it keeps me fit.

"It is nice to have championship classes like this so that riders of my age can carry on competing at a high level."

Return to home turf is triumph in all ways

Aldridge 32 Stourport 0

ALDRIDGE made a triumphant return to their rugby home ground.

Playing there for the first time in three years and using new facilities, including a new clubhouse, Aldridge wanted a win to seal an important occasion.

With atrocious weather it was never going to be pretty and, although tactics changed throughout, the home side eventually ran out comfortable winners.

Scrum-half Chris Jones posted a penalty after a minute which settled things down while a second, 10 minutes later, provided a welcome cushion.

It was scrappy with much activity taking place in the centre of the field.

Breakthrough

Aldridge created plenty of chances but conditions made handling a bit of a lottery.

It wasn't until the half hour that fly-half Ben Drinkwater finally achieved the breakthrough with a solo effort round the blind side into the corner. Jones added the extra points.

In the second half, Aldridge took control. A typical run by lock Eddie O'Neill took him through and over. Jones converted.

Full-back Alex Yates crossed twice but didn't get the decisions and it was late in the game as Jones broke through and went over.

Aldridge were well in command and striving for the bonus point.

Almost at the close, an incisive break by centre Adam Reed was halted at the line but O'Neill was on hand to take it on and over for the touchdown. Jones added both conversions.

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